Abalos new Comelec chief; 2 Alvarezes reappointed

STORY ON PAGE A2

HINDI KASI KAYO NAG BABASA NG BIBLE!

Estrada lawyers go Biblical

By Volt Contreras

NOW they're taking the religion tack.

Quoting the Bible this time, court-appointed lawyers of

ESTRADA/A6

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President to stay overnight in Basilan

By Carlito Pablo, Martin P. Marfil and Norman Bordadora

AN OVERNIGHT stay in Basilan, a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf, will allow President Macapagal-Arroyo to attend the wake of Ediborah Yap.

"She wants to visit the remains of

PRESIDENT/A19

'Part of my heart will always stay'

Gracia leaves, thanks Pinoys

By Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo

GRACIOUS to the end, Gracia Burnham flew yesterday to the United States to pick up the pieces, but not without thanking the Filipino people for the prayers and the memories.

The wounded American missionary, whose husband Martin was killed in a rescue operation on Friday, had good words for "the military men, the Filipinos and the Americans who risked and even gave their lives in order to rescue us."

"May God bless these men in their ongoing efforts," she said.

She expressed love and thanks to her and husband's "so many dear friends" in the country: "You know who you are—our friends in Malaybalay (Bukidnon), in Brooke's Point (Palawan), in Darapidap (Nueva Vizcaya), in Manila."

"We love you so very much and we thank you for the precious memories you gave us during our 15 years here (as New Tribes missionaries). Martin loved this country with all his heart," she said, her voice breaking.

In Malacañang, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable expressed the hope that Gracia "can find the heart to come back" and "serve our people again."

"Mrs. Burnham is such an impressive and very kind person," Afable said, and pledged that the Abu Sayyaf would "not find any relief or leniency under our laws."

The 43-year-old mother of three arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on a wheelchair, with her right leg bandaged. A bullet tore through it during the Friday gun battle between the military and the Abu Sayyaf in a jungle in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte, that left her husband and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap dead.

She took a Northwest Airlines flight accompanied by her younger sister Mary Jones, and a sister of Martin's, Cheryl Spicer,

PART/A17

AN UPBEAT Gracia Burnham arrives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in a wheelchair for her flight to the United States to rejoin her family. The American missionary was wounded during a military operation to rescue her, her husband and Filipino Ediborah Yap from the Abu Sayyaf in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte, last Friday.

ROGER MARGALLO

'Sabaya's world getting smaller'

By Hernan P. de la Cruz, Franklin A. Caliguid and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

"ABU Sabaya's world is getting smaller and smaller every hour of the day," said Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, commanding officer of Task Force Comet, the lead group in the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Sua said Sabaya, spokesperson of the bandit group responsible for a kidnapping spree in Mindanao, committed a major tactical blunder when he chose Sirawai town in Zamboanga del Norte as his hideaway.

"Perhaps he was thinking that his world in Basilan was getting smaller so he opted to run here, but his world became smaller still," Sua said.

The military has spotted two twin-engine boats in a coastal village, about 3 kilometers from where Sabaya was believed to be trapped.

Since Saturday, Air Force helicopters have been transporting troops to

SABAYA/A19

'Biggest' land distribution in a year lauded

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—On the 14th anniversary of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program on Monday, President Macapagal-Arroyo not only went micro in terms of statistics in land distribution.

She went into *masa* speak as well, and boasted of having the biggest yearly accomplishment in land distribution in CARP history.

Dispelling criticisms of CARP detractors that she would only dish out macro figures, the President rattled off the numbers of hectares of land distributed in the provinces during the first year of her administration.

Her detailed enumeration, coupled by her speaking of local languages in each province, sent more than 1,600 DAR field personnel rolling in laughter, shrinking in embarrassment or sitting in full attention.

The DAR gathered the employees in a convention at the Expo Pilipino here on Monday to address hitches in the remaining eight years of CARP implementation.

The President was serious while rattling off the significant sizes of land distributedin various key areas in the country. But she chuckled when it was the accomplishment of Ilocos Sur that was mentioned.

BIGGEST/A18

'Lapses' of agencies distort CARP impact

DANTE'S PURGATORY

An **I-TEAM** *Report*

By Tonette Orejas and Russell Arador
PDI Central Luzon Desk

(Second of three parts)

TARLAC CITY—Seventy-six-year-old Pablo Méndoza merely wants the Department of Agrarian Reform to cancel the emancipation patents (EPs) to the 7 hectares awarded to Bernabe Buscayno, his son Red and his brother Juanito.

But Mendoza's case against Buscayno—more popularly known as Kumander Dante, the founder of the New People's Army and a convert to the cooperative movement—is part of a larger picture, one which shows a disturbing distortion of the age-old dream of land reform.

Buscayno and his relatives are now the beneficiaries of 53 hectares of land in Barangays Balanti and Armenia in this province. How did this happen?

Three of the relatives told the INQUIRER that Buscayno might have used them as "dummies," because many of the relatives were not in actual possession of, or were not actively tilling, the land parcels placed in their name.

Both Buscayno and the DAR office of Tarlac City strongly deny any wrongdoing. Maximo Santiago, city agrarian reform officer, said his office had copies of affidavits by farmers from Balanti and Armenia who say

LAPSES/A18

JOAN BONDOC

INDEPENDENCE DAY MOOD

Philippine flags flutter at the Department of the Interior and Local Government building on Edsa, Quezon City, as the nation prepares to celebrate Independence Day tomorrow.

Sad about RP democracy, but proud to be Filipino

By Jose V. Abueva

(Editor's note: The author is professor emeritus of the University of the Philippines' Political Science and Public Administration, president of Kalayaan College and fellow and trustee of Social Weather Stations.)

WHILE more Filipinos are dissatisfied with the way democracy works in the country and are not proud of our political system, the great majority of them are quite proud to be Filipino.

This was the most outstanding finding of a recent University of the Philippines survey conducted nationwide. It's an important fact to know and appreciate as we celebrate the 104th anniversary of our declaration of independence from Spain on June 12, 1898, and the 56th anniversary of regaining our independence from the United States on July 4, 1946.

Another significant finding of the survey is that Filipinos consider being God-centered, industrious and faithful to service, work or country as most important traits they identify most with "being a good Filipino citizen."

The INQUIRER had earlier published other findings of the UP national survey conducted by the author for the Center for Leadership, Citizenship, and Democracy of the state university's Na-

SAD/A6

MAGING MAAYOS NA KAYA ANG COMELEC NYAN?

Abalos named new Comelec chief

2 Alvarezes reappointed by Palace

By Dona Pazzibugan, Alcuin Papa and Christine Avendaño

MALACAÑANG yesterday appointed Metro Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. as Commission on Elections chair, replacing Alfredo Benipayo.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the appointment papers of Abalos on June 5, according to Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr.

Ms Macapagal also re-appointed Heherson Alvarez as Environment Secretary and Pantaleon Alvarez as Transportation Secretary on June 5 after the Commission on Appointments bypassed them anew, Afable said.

She also re-appointed Comelec commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason.

But Ms Macapagal has not named a new chair for the MMDA.

Abalos, in a phone interview with INQUIRER yesterday, said that he was excited over his appointment as Comelec chair.

"I'm very excited," he said. "I have to thank the President.

As the new Comelec chair, Abalos said he wants to "change the people's perception of the Comelec, of the electoral process and our elected officials."

He said he also wants to change the perception that candidates who lost in an election were cheated.

Abalos, 66, was born to poverty and worked as a golf caddy, factory wprker, janitor and messenger to support himself through law school.

He practiced law after graduation and became a judge in 1969 at the Pasig municipal court where he was judge for 10 years.

After the first Edsa Revolution in 1986, Abalos was appointed Officer-In-Charge of Mandaluyong. He was later elected mayor of the city in 1988, and served three consecutive terms.

After Edsa 2 last year, Abalos was appointed MMDA chair.

ABALOS promises to adopt conciliatory attitude to Tancangco group.

Before Abalos' appointment as Comelec chair, a very public infighting between Benipayo and a faction close to Commissioner Luz Tancangco plagued the poll body.

Members of the House and Senate have repeatedly called for the two groups to patch things up, or for one of them to resign.

Members of the CA have also become alarmed about the fierce infighting and had said they would not confirm Benipayo until he found a way to work with Tancangco and Commissioners Ralph Lantion, Rufino Javier and Mehol Sadain.

Ms Macapagal had repeatedly denied she was considering replacing Benipayo, and re-appointed him on March 18 after the CA bypassed him again.

The CA has repeatedly bypassed Commissioners Borra and Tuason because of their feud with the four Estrada-appointed commissioners.

At his regular news briefing yesterday, Afable told reporters that the three bypassed Comelec officials, including Benipayo, were re-appointed June 5. But an hour later, he said Abalos had been appointed to replace Benipayo.

Afable claimed Benipayo "asked not to be reappointed" anymore. He added that the President did not replace Benipayo because of his work.

Asked why the President chose Abalos, Afable said the former Mandaluyong mayor "has always sought fairness."

"He was never a highly partisan leader. And he has a very mild manner," he said.

Asked how he would deal with the faction of Commissioner Tancangco, Abalos said he would adopt a conciliatory attitude.

"We are all equals in the Comelec," he said. "We have the same vote and we must respect each other."

Abalos pointed out that "everyone was also against me" when he was appointed MMDA chair.

Several congressmen have moved to file an impeachment case against Commissioner Tancangco. But this was stalled when Congress abruptly adjourned its session last week.

Abalos, Tancangco group meet

By Alcuin Papa

NEWLY appointed Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. met last night with Comelec commissioners belonging to the faction of Luz Tancangco in an effort to unite the divided electoral body.

Abalos met Commissioners Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion and Tancangco herself at his office at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong.

The three commissioners have indicated that they would cooperate with Abalos.

"I think he is a man who understands collegiality. On his own, he has the capacity to forge unity in the commission. It's a deliberative body and things should be discussed. I don't see any reason why we can't act as one," Tancangco said.

Javier congratulated and welcomed Abalos to the Comelec's fold. "I hope he could get the Comelec going."

Lantion said Abalos' legal experience could prove valuable in the commission. "He brings to the commission his experience and talents. This is the best time to make the Comelec an institution."

For her part Tancangco said she "is not rejoicing for Benipayo. It's human to sympathize with someone."

Abalos' staff served red wine, brandy, grilled fish and lamb chops during the meeting.

Benipayo calls term a 'roller coaster ride'

By Blanche S. Rivera

"IT was only a matter of time," said Alfredo Benipayo right after he met with senior staff members of the Commission on Elections to announce his removal from the poll body.

Benipayo, whose confirmation by the Commission on Appointments, has been opposed by four Comelec commissioners, said he had an "inkling" of a leadership change in the Comelec.

Benipayo, however, officially learned of the appointment of Benjamin Abalos Sr. as Comelec chair only after he himself went to Malacañang at noon yesterday to "find out what the score was."

He said it was Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo who broke the news to him that Abalos had been appointed to Comelec chair. A few hours later, Malacañang faxed to Benipayo's Comelec office the list of those who have been reappointed by the Comelec.

"I'll have to start packing my things," said the former chair, who said he would need some time to clean up his office and formally turn over his functions to Abalos, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority before he was named to the top Comelec post.

"I tried to clean up what I thought ought to be cleaned up, even resulting in the unfortunate death of a colleague," he added, referring to the murder of Comelec information chief Velma Cinco in November last year.

Benipayo faced the media trying to sound cheerful, throwing jokes about his 17 months in the Comelec, which he described as a "roller coaster ride, full of excitement, anxiety and a lot of damage control."

He said he would take time off to sleep, go on a long and well-deserved vacation or just stay in his library at home. He said he would continue teaching law and giving lectures to judges.

Supreme Court post

Malacañang is said to be eyeing a post for the former Comelec chair in the Supreme Court as associate justice.

Benipayo is on the short list of those who could be tapped for the two vacant posts in the Supreme Court, where he was detailed before his appointment to the poll body.

"My job here (Comelec) has not been easy, but despite the aggravation, we managed to conduct the May polls, ARMM elections, the special registration and the preparations for the SK. And barangay elections are almost through," Benipayo said.

He said he would sit down with Abalos to brief him on pending matters, particularly the automation and the modernization programs of the Comelec.

Until the last minute, Benipayo remained firm on his stand against the P6.5-billion Voters Registration and Identification System, saying it was illegal and way beyond the Comelec's budget.

Reyes says coup d'etat complaint a nuisance suit

By M. Lim Ubac

A NUISANCE suit, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said of the coup d'etat complaint filed against him in the Office of the Ombudsman.

In a 14-page comment he filed on June 6 with the office, Reyes said he only wanted to protect the "people and the state" when he led the Armed Forces of the Philippines in withdrawing its support from the Estrada administration on Jan. 19, 2001.

Reyes sought the dismissal of the complaint filed against him and three retired generals on May 16.

Had he and the three top military officials at the time did not defect to the camp of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, bloodshed could not have been averted during the so-called "Edsa II" Revolution that ousted then President Joseph Estrada amid widespread charges of corruption against him.

Acting against a backdrop of national crisis, the then AFP chief of staff, said: "If we did not decide the way we did, there was going to be blood in the streets, there was going to be turmoil, there's going to be chaos. And we did not want this to happen."

Reyes told Ombudsman Aniano Desierto that the complaint had no factual or legal basis, and thus must be dismissed, "for utter lack of merit, and for being no more than a nuisance suit."

The complaint was filed by Estrada's supporters—newspaper publishers Ninez Cacho-Olivares and Amado Macasaet, Estrada's former political advisor Angelito Banayo, and columnists Horacio "Ducky" Paredes and Herman Tiu Laurel.

In filing the complaint, Estrada's supporters invoked a 1990 law punishing coup plotters.

They asked Desierto to charge Reyes, retired Generals Diomedio Villanueva, Fortunato Abat and Leo Alvez with mutiny for their withdrawal of military support from the Estrada administration.

On May 20, Desierto created a panel to handle the complaint.

Desierto gave the panel 90 days to finish its job.

The complaint is still in the evaluation stage.

According to Reyes, the crime of coup d'etat is committed by means of "a swift attack accompanied by violence, intimidation, threat, strategy or stealth" and that the purpose of the attack "is to seize or diminish state power."

Reyes contended that his withdrawal of military support from Estrada was justified by the constitutional mandate of the AFP as the "protector of the people and of the state."

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Senators declare ceasefire

Deadlock creating more harm than good

By Rocky Nazareno

ADMITTING that the impasse in the Senate is creating more harm than good, the two opposing camps have agreed to a "cessation of hostilities" while Congress is on recess.

The administration coalition and the "new majority" have also declared a moratorium on the holding of committee hearings until the impasse is resolved when the 12th Congress holds its second regular session on July 22.

"We agreed that the two sides will refrain from making provocative public statements and from taking any action that will contribute to the political tension in the chamber," Senate President Franklin Drilon said at a press conference.

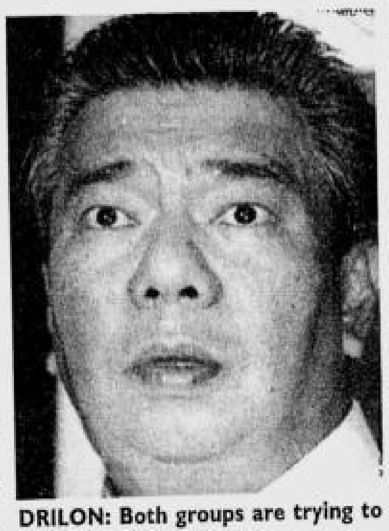
The "ceasefire" agreement was arrived at in a meeting between the administration bloc represented by Drilon and Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste and the opposition led by Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Edgardo Angara.

"So that is a starting point," Drilon said.

But he admitted that nothing clear came out of the meeting because "beyond (the meeting), we didn't have any specifics. We know that it is not easy to come up with a formula."

"At least there is a common desire by both groups to try to clear the air of poison and create an environment in which we can talk dispassionately about the problem," he said.

The agreement suspended a hearing by the Senate committee on energy previously scheduled for July 20. Committee chair Sen. John Osmeña of the "new majority" had invited former President Fidel Ramos to testify on the alleged illegal power contracts entered into with independent power producers during his term.


DRILON: Both groups are trying to clear the air of poison.

Opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said any hearing conducted by either camp during the break would be "a sure ticket to conflict."

"I agree that we should all stop making comments against the other party and not hold committee hearings during the break because it's bound to make things worse," Biazon said.

At the flag-raising ceremony at the Senate, Drilon, apologized to Senate employees and officials "caught in the crossfire" of the warring senators.

"Not only . . . has last week caused you insecurity. It has also caused confusion to many of you. So as not to be confused, just remember one thing, I am the Senate President," he told Senate personnel.

Drilon declared that "the existing procedures and designated signatories will continue to be the same."

"In case of doubt, bring the matter to my attention," he said.

But Drilon's assurance that he is still in control proved almost short-lived.

Just hours after telling Senate people that he was in charge, the "new majority" released a June 6 advisory, informing all Senate officers and employees of the election of a new Senate secretary.

In his advisory, Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople announced that lawyer Demaree J.B. Raval was elected Senate Secretary during the 85th session on June 5, or two days after the "new majority" took control of the Senate.

Raval replaced lawyer Oscar Yabes.

But senators belonging to the "old majority" have already rejected Raval's election, maintaining that they will only recognize Yabes as the Senate secretary.

"Now, this is going to create a lot of problems and confusion. For who will we follow now? Raval? Yabes?" said a Senate employee of the Public Information and Media Relations Office.

The Senate secretary, one of four officials elected by senators apart from the Senate President, Senate President Pro Tempore and Sergeant-at-Arms, is the custodian of all the records of the Senate.

He overseas the functions and day-to-day work of the Senate support staff and committee personnel.

LACSON

Bank execs behind Ping accounts face probe

By Philip Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is set to issue subpoenas to "10 to 12" officials from the government and private banking sector to shed more light on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's dollar accounts, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday.

Wycoco said the officials include those involved in the "remittance" of Lacson's money from local to foreign banks, and "record custodians" of government agencies that handle Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

"We have prepared subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum for people who can, in one way or another, shed light on (these documents)," Wycoco said.

The NBI is set to file perjury and anti-graft charges against Lacson for not including in his SAL his dollar accounts in the United States.

Wycoco said the bureau would file the charges after it submits a report on the Lacson dollar accounts to the Senate committees on national defense, public order and illegal drugs, and the Blue Ribbon committee.

He said the three committees want the NBI to submit its report on Lacson's dollar accounts because they still have to finish their investigation on the senator's alleged money laundering activities.

"The documents will be able to speak for themselves. When we file the case, all these things will come out," Wycoco said.

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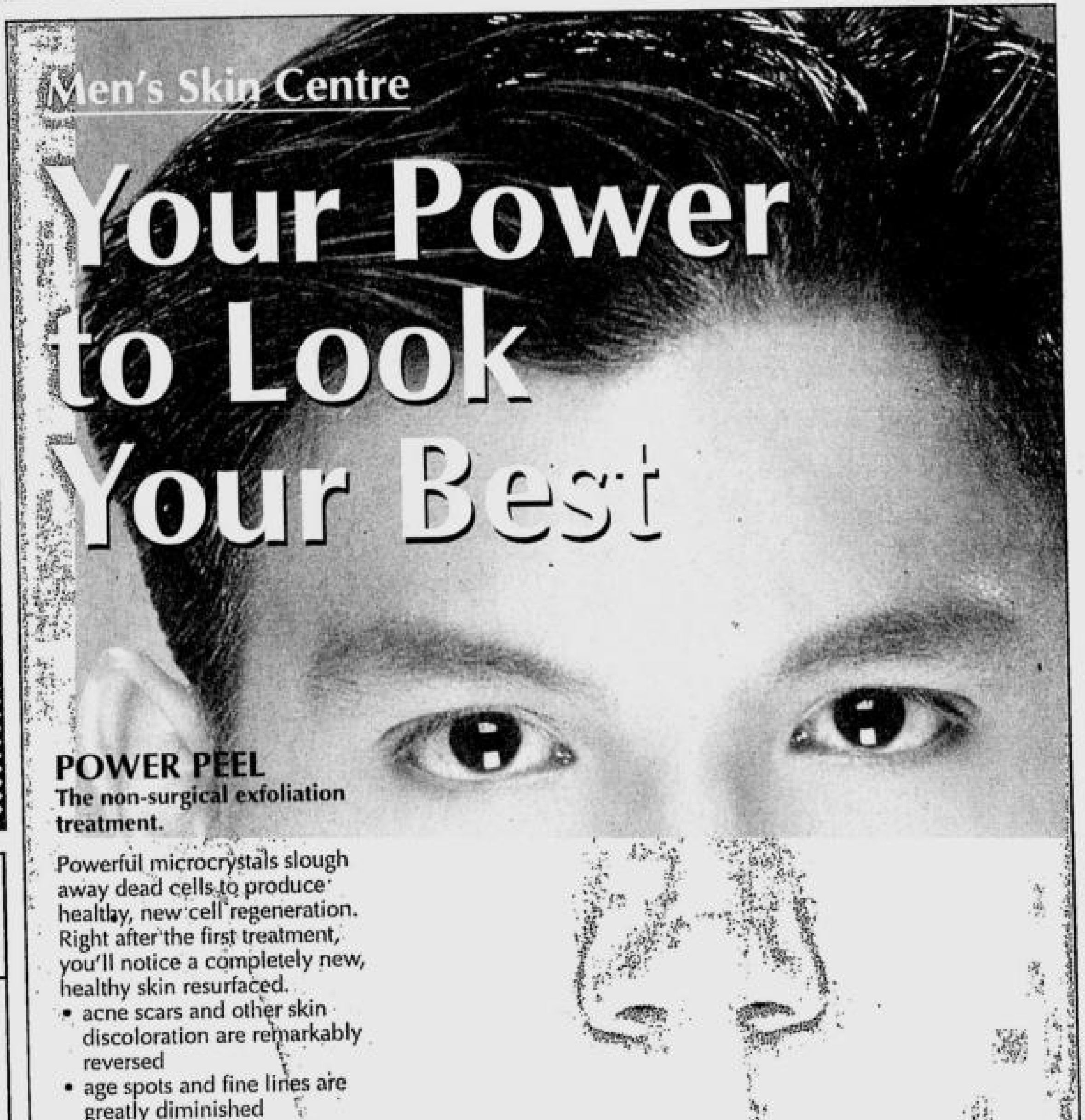
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Missing Korean envoy found dead in Marikina

CHUNG: Tragic death of a diplomat

By TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa

KOREAN diplomat Chung Young-ho, who has been missing since June 7, was found dead on Friday in Marikina City, police said yesterday.

Lee Yong-soo, First Secretary of the Korean Embassy in Manila, said Chung's body was found in Barangay Marikina Heights at about 2 p.m. on Friday. But it was only yesterday that the police confirmed that it was the missing diplomat's body.

Chung, 47, who resided at Unit 2404 of Ritz Tower on Ayala Avenue in Makati City, was Third Secretary of the Korean Embassy.

Police said an unidentified object was found stuck in Chung's throat. But his body bore no other external injuries, police added.

Chung's body was brought to the King's Funeral Homes on J.P. Rizal Street for autopsy, said Director Nestorio Gualberto, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

PNP help sought

Last Sunday, the Korean Embassy asked national police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza to exhaust all means to trace the official.

Korean Ambassador Son Sang-ha met with Mendoza at the Mandarin Hotel in Makati City to relay the Korean government's desire for the safe recovery of Chung, officials said yesterday.

"He asked PNP to help locate Chung," said Gualberto, who was present at the meeting.

Investigators suspected that the Ativan Gang, which is notorious for befriending foreigners and spiking their drinks with sleep-inducing drugs before robbing them, had a hand in Chung's disappearance.

The CIDG, which is looking into the case together with the National Bureau of Investigation and the National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-KFR Task Force, remains stumped by his disappearance.

"Why would the Ativan Gang seize him when he had no money and jewelry at that time? What would they get from him?" Gualberto wondered.

He, however, said that investigators were still sticking to their initial theory that the Ativan Gang was behind his disappearance, citing its modus operandi of using people well-versed in foreign language to befriend foreigners.

Chung was last seen in the company of his friend Chung Han Young on June 6. Young reported Chung missing the following day after he learned from Chung's wife that his friend had not returned home.

Young told police that he went to Chung's office at 7:30 p.m. on June 6 and had dinner with Chung at the Soo Woo Korean Restaurant on Gen. Luna Street in Barangay Poblacion, Makati.

He said they went for drinks after dinner at the Jools Club on P. Burgos Street in Makati, but found it closed. They then proceeded to the Heritage Money Changer shop on the same street, Young told police.

He said a man had approached them and greeted them in Korean while they were at the money changer's shop. The man introduced himself as Robert Sambili, a vice president of Hong Kong-Shanghai Bank Corp., and invited them for drinks, Young said. He said they boarded Sambili's car, which was driven by another man.

Drinking spree

Young said that when he mentioned he was familiar with the Ortigas area, Sambili had suggested a change of venue. They proceeded to Paradise Videoke on Ortigas Extension in San Isidro, Taytay, and had a drinking spree, Young said.

He said they left after two hours, and he asked to be dropped off on Meralco Avenue, leaving Chung in the car with Sambili and the driver.

Young told police he called up Chung on his cell phone at 10:50 p.m. He said Chung had told him the car was approaching his Makati residence. He said he called Chung again ten minutes later, but failed to contact his friend. He said he assumed Chung was already home.

Young said he called up Chung the next day, but his wife told him her husband had not come home the night before. He then called up the Korean Embassy to report Chung's disappearance.

Missing Israeli

Chung was the second foreigner to disappear in Makati City in less than two weeks.

On May 30, Israeli Broudo Gordechai, 42, went missing, police said.

Gordechai and his companion Sivan Tsachi, 42, both billeted at the Mandarin Hotel in Makati City, were at the Glorietta Center waiting for a cab at 7:45 p.m. on May 20 when a man approached them and befriended them, after identifying himself as a vice president of HSBC, police said.

The man offered the Israelis a ride back to their hotel in their car, police said. Inside the car, they were given canned pineapple juice.

Tsachi told police he felt dizzy after drinking his juice and asked to be let out of the car. He said the car sped away once he was out, but Gordechai was left inside it with the suspect.

Tsachi reported the abduction to the Makati police station 6.

Gordechai was last wearing a light blue polo shirt, a black necktie, a black coat and black pants.

Makati City chief of police Supt. Jovito Gutierrez has ordered a follow-up investigation on both incidents. SPO4 Quillano Molimisa of the Follow-up Unit said he was collating information and coordinating with the police stations concerned.

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Filipinos in Hawaii inaugurate $13-million community center

By Stella O. Gonzales

A 10-YEAR dream is finally coming true for Filipinos in Hawaii on Tuesday.

As their compatriots in the Philippines celebrate the country's 104th Independence Day (Wednesday in Manila), they will be inaugurating the $13-million Filipino Community Center in Waipahu.

"After 10 years, I still cannot believe it's there," Eddie Flores Jr., a local businessman who was one of those who spearheaded the effort to make the community center a reality, was quoted by the Associated Press as saying.

The FilCom Center—a three-story structure that occupies 50,000 square feet of land—is the largest of its kind outside Manila. It stands on the site of the former Oahu Sugar Mill at the corner of Waipahu and Mokuola streets in a community business district.

The center, according to its website, symbolizes the achievements of Filipino-Americans who have made significant contributions to Hawaii's modern history and culture since first wave of Filipino sugar workers, the *sakadas*, arrived in 1907.

Filipino-Americans now make up 14 percent of Hawaii's 1.2 million population—the third largest ethnic group in the state—and they have become quite influential in the community's culture, education, business and even politics.

In fact, the governor of Hawaii is Ben Cayetano, a Filipino-American whose parents come from Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

The FilCom Center's logo is that of the sun shining on Mayon Volcano.

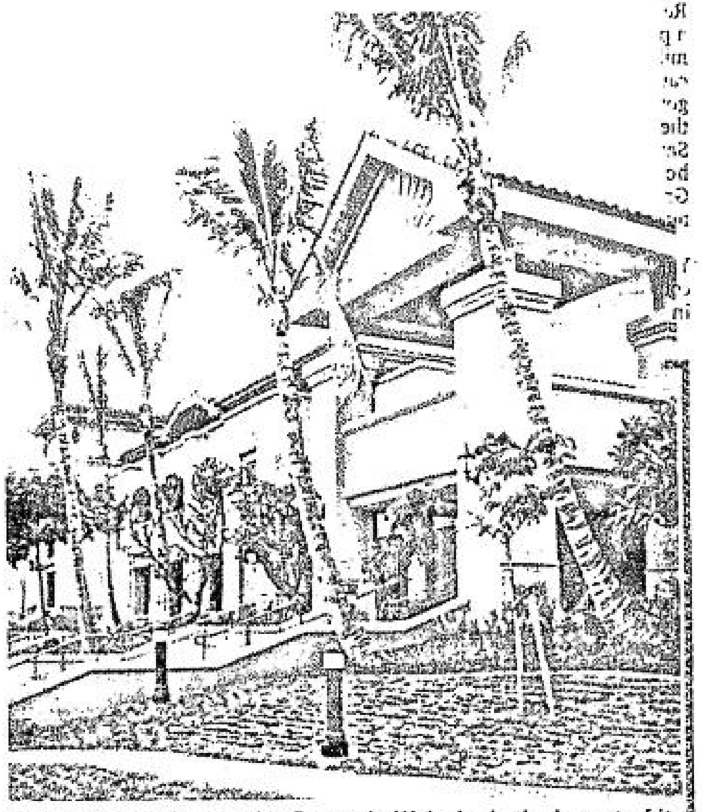
Its designers say the Mayon is a symbol of the Filipino's "perseverance, resilience and desire for excellence" while the sun represents the Filipino-Americans in Hawaii "and their emergence as a strong political and economic force in the state." The sun's rays portray individual Filipinos who overcome challenges before them.

The center was built through donations and pledges—in cash and in kind, including volunteer work.

The architectural firm Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo, the firm that designed the Hawaii Convention Center, designed it for free, according to the center's website.

The land on which it now stands, which was valued at $3 million, was donated by Amfac/JMB Hawaii in 1998.

The project was initiated by the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. It became an independent entity in 1993. ***With a report from AP***



THE FILIPINO Community Center in Waipahu is the largest of its kind outside the Philippines.

Retirement of 8 police generals triggers reshuffle amid poll ban

DESPITE the election ban, the national police will institute a reshuffle this month following the retirement of at least eight police generals.

"We have to fill in vacancies created by those who have retired or have yet to retire," said Deputy Director General Rex Piad, chief of the Philippine National Police Directorial Staff. "There will be a domino effect in view of the retirement."

Those who have retired were Deputy Director General Anselmo Avenido; Directors Thompson Lantion, Miguel Coronel and Efren Fernandez; Chief Superintendents Tiburcio Fusilero, Steve Cudal, Alfredo Daluyaya and Gregorio Dolina.

No official replacements have been named yet.

Director Cecilia Penilla will retire on June 29. Twelve other police generals, including PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza, are scheduled to retire in the second half of the year.

Piad said the PNP would seek exemption from the Commission on Elections for the reshuffle. Any personnel movement is prohibited by the Omnibus Election Code in connection with the July 15 synchronized Sangguniang Kabataan and barangay elections.

"What can we do? We have to do this in the wake of the retirement of some officials. These are valid reasons," he said, adding that Comelec normally grants such reshuffle.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 11, 2002
St. Barnabas, Apostle

1st Reading: Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3
Gospel: Mt 10:7-13

Jesus said to his disciples, "Go and proclaim this message: The kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers, and drive out demons. You received this as a gift, so give it as a gift. Do not carry any gold, silver or copper in your purses. Do not carry a traveler's bag, or an extra shirt, or sandals, or walking-stick: workers deserve their living.

When you come to a town or a village, look for a worthy person and stay there until you leave.

As you enter the house, wish it peace. If the people in the house deserve it, your peace will be on them; if they do not deserve it, your blessing will come back to you."

Commentary

Jesus clarifies the mission of those he has chosen: to be light of the world, and not merely to be a light in the world. You are neither saviors nor the best in the world, but God has chosen you and through you he will make himself known. The covenant of the salt was the covenant of God with those who were to serve him forever. (Num 18:19) Through faithful disciples the world benefits from the covenant with God. They must continually enkindle in the world the desire and struggle for true justice and perfection, and not allow human societies to become satisfied with mediocrity. Truthful at any cost, faithful to the end, just in business, humble in service, kind in relationships, happy in all dealings, these are the people who give flavor to our world.

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DOH warns public vs measles outbreak

By Armand N. Nocum

THE DEPARTMENT of Health has warned of a possible outbreak of measles this year, citing a study showing the disease "peaking" every three to four years in the country.

The disease, which killed 170 people last year, is expected to hit congested and crowded urban areas in Metro Manila, during the "cold months" from October to January.

In a press briefing, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the incidence of the disease usually increases every three years following a major immunization campaign.

"We are expecting a pocket of outbreak of measles cases in year 2002. There's a cyclical pattern in a given year," he said of the outbreak of the air-borne disease, which last hit the country in 1996.

According to him, malnourished children living in crowded areas in the metropolis are quite vulnerable to the disease.

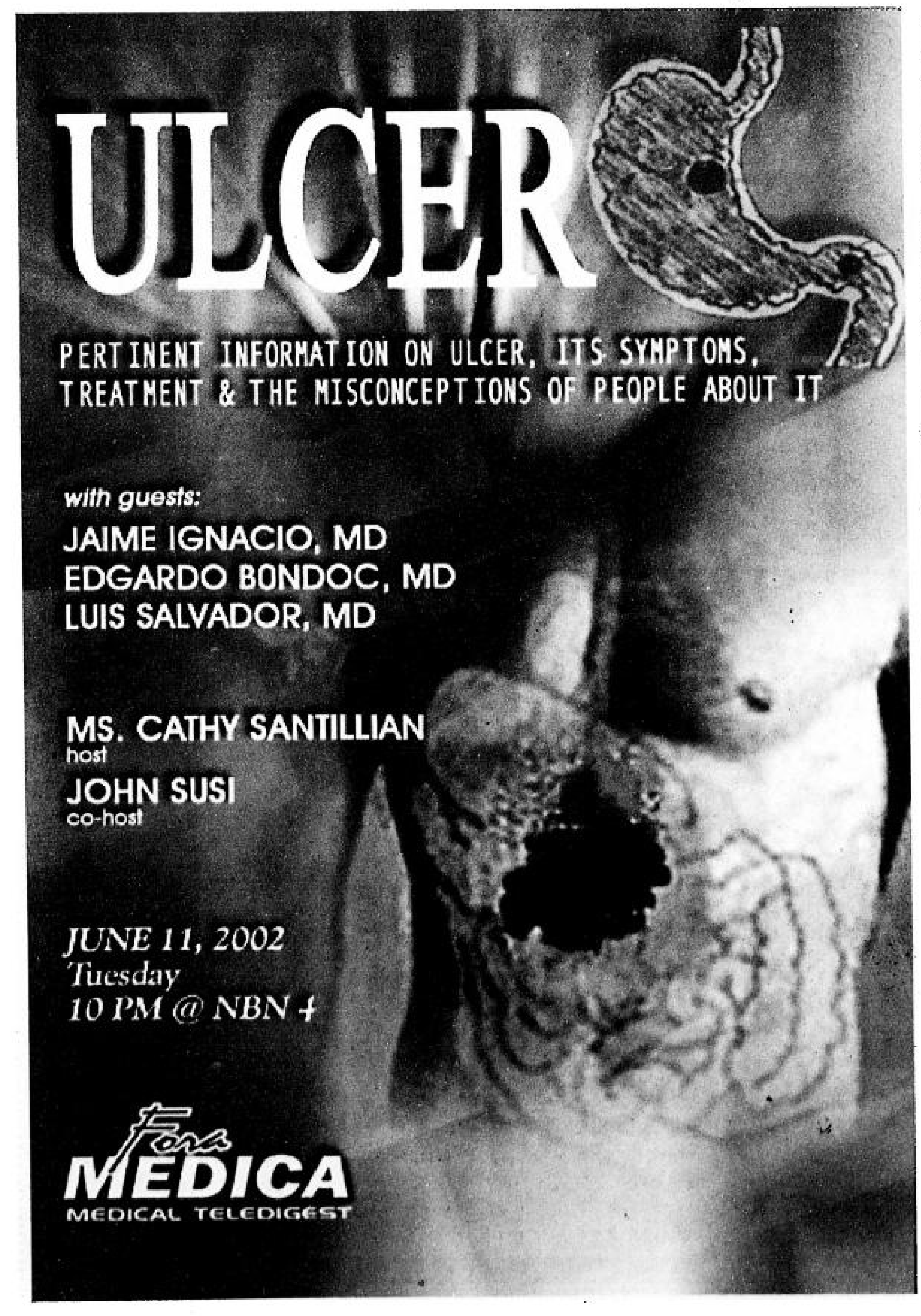
To counter the measles outbreak, Dayrit said the DOH will launch an "Iwas-Tigdas 2002" campaign to "eliminate pockets of low immunization coverage in Metro Manila."

The new door-to-door vaccination campaign will be staged in 596 high-risk areas in Metro Manila from June 25 to July 7.

The campaign aims to inoculate some 500,000 children from 9 months to 5 years old.

Dayrit said the program will serve as "preview" for a nationwide vaccination in 2003.

But he assured there is no dramatic increase in the cases of measles this year.



No reward for father-and-son guides, says Golez

By Carlito Pablo

SORRY folks. No Janjalani, no share of the P250-million bounty.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez yesterday said that father-and-son Bernardo and Edwin Reseroni cannot qualify for the $5-million reward put up by the US on the heads of top-ranking Abu Sayyaf leaders.

"It (reward system) won't apply to them. It would have had Sabaya, Janjalani or Sulaiman was captured," Golez said in an interview over dzMM.

Golez was referring to the three of five Abu Sayyaf leaders covered by the reward, namely Aldam Tilao alias Abu Sabaya, Khadafy Janjalani and Jainal Antel Sali alias Abu Sulaiman. The two others were Isnilon Hapilon and Hamsiraji Marusi Sali.

"The reward is for the capture and prosecution" of these five leaders, Golez said.

Golez was commenting on reports that the Reseronis are asking for a portion of the multimillion-peso bounty because they helped lead government soldiers to the location of the Abu Sayyaf band and their hostages Martin and Gracia Burnham and nurse Ediborah Yap.

Mr. Burnham and Yap were killed in the course of the gunbattle in the jungles of Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte, on June 7.

Abducted on June 2 and forced to serve as a guide, Edwin claimed he deliberately left behind his slippers and pen to serve as clues on where he was taken by the Abu Sayyaf.

Bernardo, for his part, gave these articles to government forces who later traced the location of the Abu Sayyaf and their hostages.

Four Abu Sayyaf men were killed in the firefight but Sabaya escaped.

"None of the five wanted Abu Sayyaf was captured," Golez pointed out. "If no one was captured, there is no reward."

In Malacañang, however, Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said that the Reseronis can try their luck by filing a claim for a portion of the reward.

Afable said that it's up to the American authorities to "process" their claim but he noted that the reward was for the arrest and prosecution of the five Abu Sayyaf leaders.

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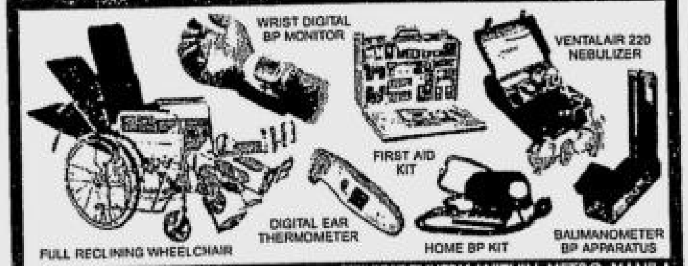

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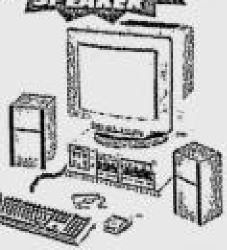

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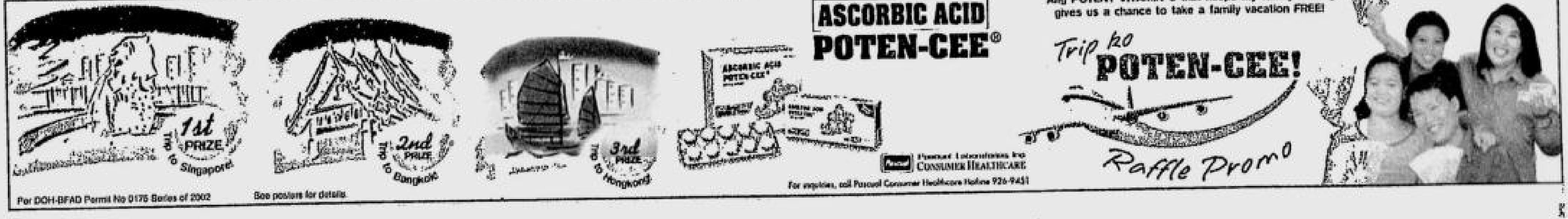
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Estrada lawyers go Biblical

From page A1

deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to reconsider its ruling last week denying his request to undergo knee surgery in the United States.

They reiterated their client's position that he had already rejected offers of exile from the Macapagal administration, and that he wanted Malacañang to "guarantee" that he would be allowed to return after receiving medical treatment abroad.

"Is this the attitude of a man to flee? Certainly not," the lawyers said in a six-page motion for reconsideration.

They added: "What we have is a man bold as a lion as he strongly believes in his innocence. We are familiar with the Biblical saying that only the guilty fleeth but the innocent is bold as a lion."

The special court hearing Estrada's plunder and three other criminal cases had denied his November 2000 travel request, citing the "perceived risk" of his escape.

It said that considering Estrada's constant attacks on the credibility of the Philippine justice system, specifically the Sandiganbayan, it was "not unexpected" that he would later choose not to return.

The court also said the right of an accused to a doctor of choice was "not absolute" but must be adjusted for the effective administration of justice.

'No harm'

But in their motion, Estrada's lawyers said the government's power to prosecute would not be diminished even if he were allowed to go abroad because he could be tried or judged *in absentia*.

"No harm done to the State. No harm done to the criminal justice system," they said.

And should Estrada escape, the Philippine government can easily invoke its extradition treaty with the United States and other countries, they added.

Estrada, who says he no longer recognizes the court proceedings, is being defended by four de officio lawyers—Manuel Pamaran, a retired presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan, Prospero Crescini, Noel Malaya and Irene Jurado.

State prosecutors yesterday told the court that they would present next week "Juetengate" whistle-blower Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Apart from the former governor of Ilocos Sur, Emma Lim and Menchu Itchon—two of his employees who testified during Estrada's impeachment trial—will also be called to the stand.

Estrada is accused of receiving monthly bribes from big-time jueteng operators, with Singson acting as his "bagman."

In the past several hearings, prosecutors presented five branch managers of Equitable PCIBank regarding the multimillion-peso deposits made by Yolanda Ricaforte, the alleged "auditor" of Estrada's supposed jueteng payola collections.

Sad about RP democracy . . .

From page A1

tional College of Public Administration and Governance.

The survey taken in November 2001 involved interviews of a representative sample of 1,200 respondents who are 18 years and older, with a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

It asked respondents, "How proud are you to be a Filipino citizen?"

Much pride was evident in the responses nationwide: 57 percent for Very Proud; 34 percent for Proud; and only 9 percent for Not Proud, and one percent for Not at All Proud.

One can derive a summary measure for national pride by adding the first two positive responses (Very Proud plus Proud), then subtracting the sum of the negative responses (Not Proud plus Not at All Proud). This would yield a "margin of pride" or "a score for net pride."

The margins for national pride were rather high: 82 percent in the entire Philippines and even 91 among Metro Manila respondents.

The relatively greater national pride of Metro Manilans, who are usually better informed and more critical than the nation as a whole, made the finding more remarkable.

In general, national pride was lower though still high in the rural areas (79 percent) than in the urban (86 percent). Net pride in rural Visayas was 74 percent; in urban Mindanao, 71 percent; and in rural Mindanao, 74 percent.

The net pride scores did not differ substantially across income classes or genders. Notably, in the age groups, pride was greatest in the two youngest sets: plus 93 for those aged 18-24 years, and plus 87 for those aged 25-34 years.

This is a very hopeful sign, for despite the many problems Filipinos suffer from and adults complain of, our youths keep high their faith in their nationhood and citizenship.

Contrast this with a study of schoolchildren in Metro Manila during the later years of the Marcos dictatorship, in which most of them said that they would rather be foreigners than Filipinos.

However, this was reversed following the Edsa Revolution in 1986.

Most valued traits

The survey investigated the importance of certain characteristics that "good citizens" possess as respondents were presented a list of traits.

They were asked to rate each one as "Very Important," "Somewhat Important" or "Not Important." The summary indicator would be the margin of importance: percentage of Very Important minus percentage of Not Important}.

The Very Important responses were dominant across all characteristics, so the margins were positive and large. We are providing a ranking of these traits by their net importance.

Topping the most important qualities were being God-centered; industrious; faithful to service, work or country; having convictions; and being responsible.

The following were the margins of importance: God-centered, 92 percent; industrious, 91 percent; faithful to service, work, or country, 88 percent; has convictions, 86 percent; responsible, 86 percent; peaceful and law-abiding, 85 percent; loving and caring, 84 percent;

Concerned with the common good, 83 percent; wants to learn, 83 percent; nationalistic, 81 percent; sociable, 80 percent; free, 80 percent; civic spirited, 76 percent; assertive, 76 percent; willing to unite with others for a common purpose, 73 percent; thrifty, 72 percent; democratic, 70 percent; competitive, 57 percent; and courageous, 57 percent.

National identity

To draw out more perceptions on national identity, the survey asked the people to agree or disagree with certain test statements.

For each item, they were presented a 5-point scale. They were asked, "Would you say that you (Strongly Agree}, (Agree), (Maybe Agree or Maybe Disagree), (Disagree) or (Strongly Disagree) with the statement . . . ?"

The summary measure here would be the margin of agreement—the percentage agreeing with the statement minus the percentage disagreeing. The category "Maybe Agree/Maybe Disagree" was the neutral midpoint in the range and would not figure in calculating the margin.

There was strong net agreement, at 81 percent, for the test statement, "I would rather be a citizen of the Philippines than of any other country in the world." This is consistent with the respondents' expression of much pride in being Filipino.

Disagreement was dominant for the statement, "People should support their country even if their country is in the wrong." The margin of agreement was at negative 27 percent. That is, more Filipinos do not subscribe to the value of "my country, right or wrong."

There was strong support for doing much better in English instruction. The statement, "Philippine schools should make much effort to teach English properly" yielded a net agreement score of 79 percent.

This is in recognition of the deterioration in many people's ability to speak and write in English, which is a handicap in cross-cultural learning and communication.

Another item was "Philippine television stations should give preference to Filipino films and programs over those that are foreign."

Agreement was less pronounced, at 45 percent. But still this reflects the concern that Filipino cultures are being undermined by foreign, mostly American, domination of the mass media.

Being Filipino

What does it really mean to be "truly Filipino"? Field interviewers read aloud the following introduction before asking their opinion:

"Some people say that the following things are important for being truly Filipino. Others say they are not important. How important or unimportant do you think each of the following is? Would you say that it is: Very Important, Fairly Important, Not Very Important, or Not At All Important?"

The summary margin was the sum of the percentages for Very Important and Fairly Important, minus the sum of the percentages for Not Very Important and Not at All Important.

As rearranged from highest to less high, the listed qualifications show the following margins of importance:

- "To feel Filipino," 85 percent.
- "To respect Philippine political institutions and laws," 83 percent.
- "To have Filipino citizenship," 76 percent.
- "To be able to speak Filipino, the national language," 74 percent.
- "To have lived in the Philippines for most of one's life," 70 percent.
- "To be a Christian," 68 percent.

Hence, people believed that the sense of "feeling Filipino" was the strongest qualification to be "truly Filipino."

Nevertheless, they believed that respecting the nation's institutions and laws was vital for maintaining one's Filipino identity.

Filipino citizenship and ability to speak the national language were also deemed quite important.

Residence abroad and being Christian counted a bit less to be "truly Filipino."

To most respondents, to be "truly Filipino" is inclusive of Filipinos who live long abroad and of those who believe in other religions.

Meaning of nationalism

The survey proceeded to explore the meaning of "nationalism." Interviewers presented a menu of nine meanings for defining nationalism. Respondents could choose as many as five meanings to reflect or explain their understanding of nationalism. Here is the ranking of definitions, by percentage:

- Loyalty to and service to the country, 72 percent.
- Being proud of our own history, culture and customs, languages, literature, music, art, and products, 72 percent.
- Promoting freedom, justice and democracy here in the Philippines, 63 percent.
- Promoting the common good and the welfare of all the people, 62 percent.
- Patriotism and love of country, 58 percent.
- Asserting our independence, 50 percent.
- Promoting nationhood, national identity, and national unity, 48 percent.
- Opposing foreign domination of our country, 30 percent.
- Promoting the nation's goals and national interest, 30 percent.

Filipino heroes

The survey looked into heroism by asking an open-ended question: "Who do you think are the Philippine heroes from the past until the present?" Then the follow-up question: "Who else?"

By far the top-of-the-mind hero from history named was Jose Rizal, cited by 75 percent of the respondents.

Andres Bonifacio was a far second, at 7 percent. Other heroes from history cited were Apolinario Mabini (one percent), Manuel Quezon (one percent), and Emilio Aguinaldo (one percent).

The top-of-the-mind heroes cited from more recent years were Ninoy Aquino (3 percent), Ferdinand Marcos (2 percent), Ramon Magsaysay (one percent), Diosdado Macapagal (one percent), Corazon Aquino (0.3 percent), and Joseph Estrada (0.26 percent).

But an interesting top-of-the-mind answer was "OFWs" or overseas Filipino workers, which got 0.55 percent.

Also mentioned as heroes were farmers, parents, teachers, and those who were at the Edsa Revolution.

When asked "Who else?" after the top-of-the-mind question, some respondents gave their answers. Here are the 12 most prominent names mentioned:

Andres Bonifacio, 44 percent; Apolinario Mabini, 19 percent; Emilio Aguinaldo, 14 percent; Jose Rizal, 12 percent; Ninoy Aquino, 8 percent; Gregorio del Pilar, 6 percent; Ramon Magsaysay, 5 percent; Melchora Aquino, 4 percent; Lapu-Lapu, 4 percent; Marcelo del Pilar, 4 percent; Juan Luna, 4 percent; and Manuel Quezon, 3 percent.

Could it be that most Filipinos think one has to be dead to be regarded among the nation's heroes? Could it be that respondents recall more readily as a hero in recent times a public figure who had been long in the public limelight?

Some might reason that some Filipinos have a short memory, and a poor sense of history, or even of right and wrong.

Significantly, 24 percent of the respondents did not cite any hero at all. Yet some respondents mentioned certain groups of citizens as "heroes."

National anthem

A basic citizen ritual to show love of, and respect for, one's country is the singing of the national anthem. How many Filipinos 18 years and above really take the "Pambansang Awit" to heart?

The Ateneo youth survey reported that only 37 percent of schoolchildren could sing it in full.

Our own interviewers requested the respondents to sing or recite the national anthem. The following are the lyrics, with the corresponding percentages of those who actually sang or recited each line.

- *Bayang magiliw*, 87 percent.
- *Perlas ng silanganan*, 77 percent.
- *Alab ng puso*, 68 percent.
- *Sa dibdib mo'y buhay*, 64 percent.
- *Lupang hinirang*, 54 percent.
- *Duyan ka ng magiting*, 47 percent
- *Sa manlulupig*, 44 percent.
- *Di ka pasisiil*, 43 percent.
- *Sa dagat at bundok*, 43 percent.
- *Sa simoy at sa langit mong bughaw*, 40 percent.
- *May dilag ang tula at awit sa paglayang minamahal*, 33 percent.
- *Ang kislap ng watawat mo'y tagumpay na nagniningning*, 27 percent.
- *Ang bituin at araw nya kailan pa ma'y di magdidilim*, 25 percent.
- *Lupa ng araw ng luwalhati't pagsinta*, 25 percent.
- *Buhay ay langit sa piling mo*, 23 percent.
- *Aming ligaya na pag may mang-aapi*, 22 percent.
- *Ang mamatay ng dahil sa iyo*, 25 percent.

For citizens who affirm much pride in being Filipino and otherwise affirm their national identity, only 25 percent, who are 18 years or older know the "Pambansang Awit" in full.

We wonder how many more Japanese, Chinese, Indonesians, Vietnamese, Malaysians, Indians, as well as Americans, French, and British, know their national anthems in full.

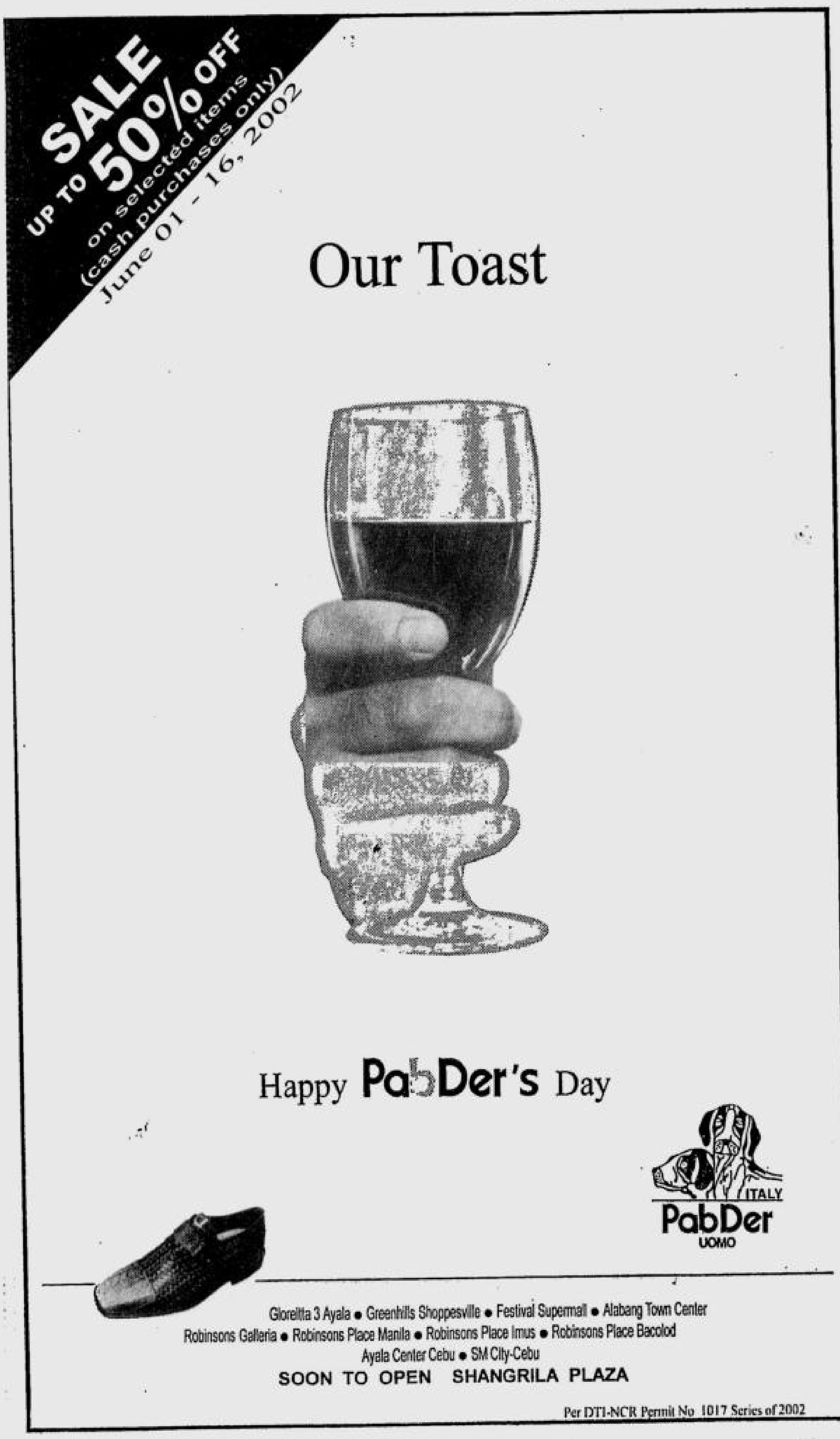
One may explain that many older Filipinos (above 60) learned the "Land of the Morning" (and the "The Star-Spangled Banner") because "Bayang Magiliw" came into use more after World War II.

It may be added that some Filipinos do not know the national language that well to learn and remember the "Pambansang Awit."

Moreover, in Cebu, certain political leaders have actually banned its singing, and required instead a Cebuano version of it. Maybe, the national anthem is just too long to remember.

Whatever the reason or excuse, our data require deeper analyses and interpretation of their implications for Filipino nationhood and citizenship, as well as leadership.

The author will certainly pursue the matter in the full survey report.



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SOMBER PHILIPPINE DAY

US Filipinos to raise funds to help Ediborah's family

By Jennie L. Ilustre
PDI Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Slain Abu Sayyaf hostages Philippine nurse Ediborah Yap and Martin Burnham were in the minds of Filipino-Americans in the American capital during the annual festival marking the Philippine independence anniversary on Sunday.

Joe Montano, executive director of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) based in this city, told the INQUIRER the organization would lead a fundraising campaign to help Yap's family.

"The Philippine Festival or Filipiniana Fair has become an annual tradition in the community since the `80s, when families and friends look forward to being together in celebration of Philippine values," he said. "It's like a big family reunion that nobody wants to miss."

"But after today, we will turn our attention to a fundraising drive for Ediborah's children, as well as urging others to write condolence letters to Gracia, Martin's widow, and their families," he added.

During the 9 a.m. Mass officiated by Fr. Cesar Marin, SJ, of Baltimore, state of Maryland and Fr. Charlie Cenzon, SJ of George Washington University, community leader Ruby Barbosa included special prayers for Ediborah and Martin in the Prayer of the Faithful.

With the White House, the US President's official residence, on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest located three short blocks away, and the Capitol (US Congress) in clear view from stage right, Mrs. Barbosa asked those present to pray "for all those involved in fighting against terrorism or suffering from its effects, especially for the repose of the souls of Martin Burnham and Ediborah Yap."

Jon Melegrito, NaFFAA national director and a columnist of this area's Manila Mail, is usually upbeat during the festival. But this year, he had something on his mind as he tied the huge "Philippines" banners that went up the tall posts. "Will we ever know what really happened in that hostage rescue operation?" he asked.

Ambassador

Ambassador Albert del Rosario told the INQUIRER Friday that because Martin's parents had visited him at the embassy "several times" during the hostage crisis, he had developed personal feelings for them. "I called them last Friday to convey my personal condolences. The Burnhams are a wonderful family, really wonderful, with a strong spiritual foundation," he said before the mass started.

He added, "Martin's body is now in Okinawa, Japan, en route to the US, and I understand his relatives are going there to meet his remains."

The ambassador arrived just before the morning Mass, taking time to greet the people and shaking their hands. He stayed through most of the program seated beside his wife. Mrs. Gretchen del Rosario was the parade grand marshal, escorted by singer Anthony Castelo.

Just before the parade, Castelo entertained the audience with his old Pilipino hits and a rendition of his composition "Long Live America." President Macapagal Arroyo presented this CD to US President George W. Bush during her November working visit in this capital.

Parade

The festival officially began with the ribbon-cutting ceremony by Ambassador Del Rosario, assisted by Greg Chen, director of the Office of Asian and Pacific Islanders from District of Columbia (D.C.) Mayor Anthony Williams' office.

As in the past, three streets on Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest were closed to give way to a parade, festival of Philippine food and crafts, and a cultural show. The fair is part of a month-long celebration that includes a Gala Ball, Family Picnic and Sportsfair, and a Youth Awards and Rizal Day honoring outstanding students.

Yearly, the all-day festival draws some 2,000 Filipino-Americans and dozens of Americans making their early Christmas shopping. There are about 60,000 Filipino-Americans in this capital, and the nearby states of Virginia and Maryland.

"Part of the proceeds of the festival goes to Philippine charities," said Bong David, this year's Philippine Festival chair and president of the World Bank Group Filipino Association. The Philippine American Foundation for Charities Inc. chooses the beneficiaries every year.

"Because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America, this year's celebration is a bit more somber," he also told the INQUIRER. "But the important thing is we were able to harness the community's resources for a tradition that takes six months of preparation."

A total of 44 tents housed several booths, the most popular of which were the food booths selling *pancit*, *lumpia*, barbecue and *halo-halo*, among other things.

The famous San Miguel beer at $3 each was served beer garden-style under umbrella tents. Other attractions: a five-hour cultural program and booths with Philippine handicraft, CDs, video movies, jewelry, Christmas tree items, exhibits and inter-active art tents for the young and old.

A mobile clinic provided vision and hearing tests, and blood pressure readings. Doctors and nurses gave free medical consultations. "This is the second year in which the metro area's Philippine Medical Association and Philippine Nurses Association have joined forces with the Lions Club International to offer free services," said Alice Namata Andam, PNA Metro D.C. president.

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

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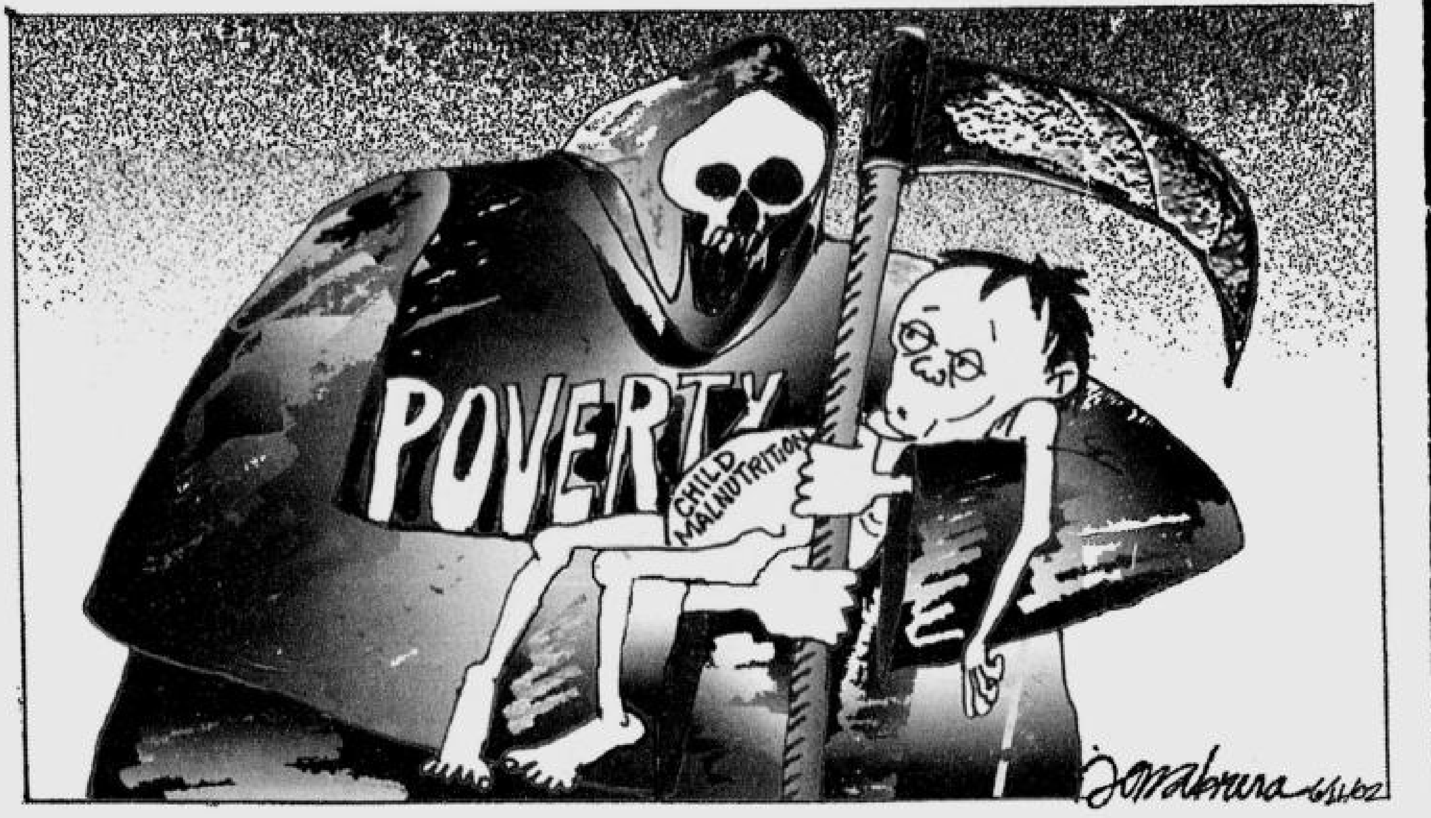

Money, money, money

EDITORIAL

BEYOND the anguish over the killing of Martin Burnham and Ediborah Yap and the continuing argument over whether the Friday operation in Zamboanga del Norte was an abject failure or a qualified success, the attentive observer should not lose sight of a fundamental issue: that the suspicion of collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf has yet to be officially erased.

The issue may provide perspective on why this hostage crisis has dragged on as long as it did despite the great numbers of men and materiel deployed in the area and, later, the use of sophisticated surveillance equipment provided by the United States. It may also suggest why Abu Sabaya unfailingly took on a contemptuous tone when he rode the airwaves, as though he had an ace up his sleeve that, among other things, guaranteed safe passage.

This is not to slur the memory of the soldiers who died in the course of operations (the young lieutenant killed a year ago in the "siege" in Lamitan, Basilan—barely more than a boy, really—comes to mind). This is to point out that the suspicion of collusion raised against their superior officers is still extant despite the usual protestations.

It was in August last year that the parish priest of Lamitan, Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, accused five military officers of the supposed connivance that allowed the bandits not only to walk away from the church on June 2 but also to take additional hostages, including nurse Yap. Money in the millions of pesos was mentioned. The bureaucracy having stirred and lumbered its way through, there is yet no official result of the congressional investigation. Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, chair of the Senate committee on national defense, said last month that the testimony of Nacorda's witnesses was "fuzzy," but that Sen. Sergio Osmeña had asked that two more witnesses be allowed to testify.

In the absence of formal closure, the suspicion remains. And given the terrible length of time in which Yap and the Burnhams endured their captivity—despite supposed sightings, the top brass' many self-imposed deadlines, the foot soldiers' poignant gesture of tying yellow ribbons on their rifles—it will be as a festering wound on the face of the military.

The sad fact is that money drapes the whole sordid affair. Money it was that galvanized and sustained the kidnap-for-ransom thrust of the Abu Sayyaf, and money it is that emerges now and again as *raison d'etre* of the bandits' rampage.

Libya's decision to pay the multimillion-dollar ransom that ended the Sipadan hostage crisis in 2000 in fact led to the ordeal that began in a posh resort in Palawan in May last year and climaxed last Friday in a jungle in Zamboanga del Norte. But even earlier, worthies of the Estrada administration—even a scoop-maddened journalist, for God's sake—contributed in no small measure to making pecuniary matters paramount in the sorry saga. (It's said it was so easy to live a sultan's life just by skimming off the top.)

Then again, it's not as though the communities within which the bandits and their hostages moved could conceivably be completely removed from this blight on local history. In an enclosed universe of crippling poverty, when hope dies early and despair henceforth holds sway, the deliverance promised by money cannot but be blinding.

Which just goes to show that this administration has to get many things going other than search-and-destroy operations. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may have ordered extensive assistance for Yap's now motherless children, but surely she and her social welfare secretary realize that this is little more than the cake in a box that little Lawrence Yap happily brought home? Indeed, what is to prevent the bandit leaders from recouping their losses and regrouping from among the residents of numberless impoverished barangays from whom hope has fled a long time ago?

A scorched-earth policy? By the statements of the top brass, the troops are ready to bomb the bejesus out of the bandit group whose leaders have again slipped through the cordon. The President has gone back to mouthing militarist talk, and invokes unequivocal United States support for her stance.

But there's just one important thing: Dead men tell no tales. In the military's renewed drive to stamp out the Abu Sayyaf, it is imperative that Sabaya and his cohorts be captured alive. Of what use would their corpses be except to serve as gory trophies, when what this country needs are answers? For starters, who got the money?

Long delay denies Mel Lopez justice

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IN THE BEGINNING, criminal charges against government officials were tried in the regular trial courts. These courts were clogged with cases and trials took a long time. In order to speed up the cases against government personnel, the Sandiganbayan was set up to try government cases exclusively. Corollary to it, the Office of the Ombudsman was also set up to investigate and prosecute cases against government officials. With the Sandiganbayan and Ombudsman, the intention was to try government cases quickly and hopefully eradicate graft and corruption.

But that is not what happened. It is the opposite that happened. Trials in the Sandiganbayan took much longer. Cases took an eternity to finish. Instead of discouraging grafters, the Sandiganbayan encouraged them because of the long delay.

The most glaring example are the cases against the Marcoses. It has been 17 years since the cases were filed, but very few have been finished, all of which were dismissals. Most of the other cases are moving at a snail's pace.

But this takes the cake. On Feb. 27, 1990, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Anti-Graft League of the Philippines filed charges against then Manila Mayor Mel Lopez for ordering the closure of two casinos. Lopez said the casinos, one in the old Silahis Hotel and the other in the Manila Pavilion Hotel, were near churches, schools and hospitals.

The case was filed in February 1990 but until now 12 years later, not a single day of trial of the accused has been held by the Sandiganbayan.

Not only that, on Sept. 30, 1991, the Sandiganbayan's Third Division ordered the Ombudsman "to reinvestigate the case and terminate the same within thirty (30) days."

The prosecution did not follow the court order. But the Sandiganbayan woke up only eight years later and found out that the Ombudsman had not complied with its order. On March 8, 1999, it ordered the prosecution to show cause within 10 days why "the case should not be dismissed for failure to prosecute despite the great lapse of time since the issuance of the Order dated Sept. 30, 1991 directing the prosecution to reinvestigate the case and terminate the same within 30 days."

It is now June 11, 2002, three years after that order, 11 years after the order giving the Ombudsman 30 days to finish a reinvestigation, but the Sandiganbayan has not yet made up its mind whether to dismiss the case or proceed with the trial.

During all that time, Lopez filed a total of 21 motions to travel. The unwarranted and excessive delay of the case based on a flawed charge in the information has unreasonably restricted the accused's free movement involving his personal and official business activities both locally and abroad. The unmitigated delay has caused the accused great physical inconvenience and mental anxiety.

Justice delayed is justice denied, so goes the axiom. By this unconscionable delay, isn't Lopez being denied justice?

Yet the Sandiganbayan can hurry up cases if it wants to, like the plunder case against former President Estrada. Isn't this compartmentalized justice?

* * *

The proposed takeover by John Gokongwei of a controlling stake in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) is indeed foul. If it were somebody else buying the shares, I would say "Go ahead." That is a free market in action.

But it so happens that Gokongwei controls JG Summit, which has an interest in telecommunications. It owns the Philippines' second biggest wireline provider, Digitel Telecommunications Philippines Inc. Digitel was also granted a license last year by the National Telecommunications Commission to operate as the third cellular service provider. By acquiring control of PLDT, Gokongwei will have another telecommunications monopoly.

Remember when PLDT was a telephone monopoly? We had to beg PLDT and wait for years for a telephone connection. PLDT took its own sweet time adding telephones. It was raking in so much money without any competition that it was not eager to have more subscribers. Do we want that to happen again? The combination of the leading player with the second biggest fixed-line operator will return the Philippines to the pre-liberalization period of the telecommunications industry.

Rep. Prospero Nograles, a ranking member of the House committee on transportation and communications, had it right. "There will be no more competition, contrary to the liberalization policy laid down by Congress when it enacted RA 7925 in 1995," he said. "It was due to this liberalization policy that the Philippines has increased the teledensity ratio from 0.8 telephones per 100 persons in 1992 to what we now have, which is 14 telephones per 100 persons. We are now seeing the fruits of liberalization, but the takeover by Mr. Gokongwei (of PLDT) will reverse the process."

* * *

Today's joke:

Son: *'Tay, ano ba 'yung* "sex"?

Father: *Ah, eh…'yun 'yong ginagawa ng magasawa para magkaanak.*

Son: *Haba naman nu'n. Paano ko kaya isusulat 'yan sa aking* biodata?

The Games

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THEY'RE happening all at once, the world's best sports series. There's the NBA Finals in Los Angeles and New Jersey, there's the French Open in Paris, and there's the spectacular World Cup in South Korea and Japan. So what have I been watching with the excitement of a wide-eyed schoolboy? Or with the religiosity of an incorrigible fan?

The Palaro in Naga City. (How's that for I love my own?)

It was my son who insisted we watch it. He loves everything about sports, except the part about playing them. Alas, it's a virtual world he lives in. But it's good at least he loves sports, as clean an air as anybody can hope to breathe, in more ways than one. Thank God for small favors.

* * *

I asked Education Secretary Raul Roco why he nearly scrapped the Palaro this year. He spoke animatedly: Because until he threatened to do so, nobody was moving. Only the host city seemed to have prepared for it. You don't hold national games just to hold national games. You hold it to drive athletes to heights of excellence. You hold it to drive the country to heights of achievement.

Good point. The quality of the games has been uneven over the past week, but there have been bursts of inspiration, particularly among the leading contenders. Gymnastics showed the disparities in levels of preparedness, or competitiveness. In one category, the contestants from a region in Mindanao, which I will not name to spare them embarrassment, all ended up limping after making their jumps. One boy seemed to have fractured a leg after landing badly. He was wincing in pain and whimpering while being carried away. My heart bled for him.

I thought there was something wrong with the mat, and wondered if it might not be up to par. But the contestants from the National Capital Region not just bounded over the hurdle easily but even somersaulted on the way to often flawless landing. There was nothing wrong with the mat. There was much that was wrong with the training of the other boys and girls. Or the preparation. You can't be good at something like that overnight. You can't be good at something like that just playing it by ear.

* * *

I'm glad they do not have basketball in the Palaro. The point after all is sports development, which means driving Filipino athletes to explore other sports. Preferably those they can excel in, which can't be basketball. I continue to hear the perverse argument, which even the World Cup can't seem to dispel, that basketball is fast-paced and exciting while other sports are boring. Not true at all.

Some Palaro games are especially exciting, and have the added virtue of not owning their provenance to the West, which means they do not naturally favor height and heft. Sepak takraw is one of them. It comes from Indonesia, if I understand right, and is an easy crowd drawer. I was listening to the comments of those who were watching it for the first time, and they found it absolutely marvelous. Sepak takraw combines soccer and volleyball, and demands the consummate skills of both. The players kick a ball to the other side of the net, employing acrobatic leaps and twists that are a joy to behold. Even the elementary kids were adept at it. You could hear oohs and ahs and partisan cheering from the stands.

Of course, the other Southeast Asians still have an advantage there. Their skills are formidable. But who knows, in time? It's certainly a more promising career path in sports than basketball. The latter is dedication to perpetual mediocrity.

* * *

There was a bit of a downer in a completely false report about a bombing in the Camarines Sur National High School. The report was later traced to a prank by one reporter that went awry. While waiting for news one noon break, the reporter wrote a report about an imaginary bombing to amuse himself—and then forgot to delete it. It got printed out along with his real story. From then on, it took a life of its own, winding its way to the tabloids in Manila. For a day or two, anxious parents and curious networks were burning telephone lines calling the press center at the games venue for clarification.

I remember a similar case many years ago. To amuse himself at night, one editor of a broadsheet used to put in things like "tomorrow's f—king weather" in the weather report, and delete them afterward. The odds caught up with him one day. He forgot to delete the offensive remarks and they got printed next day.

He was fired. I wrote a column at the time saying I once saw an episode in "Lou Grant" where Grant fired someone for writing a joke in Latin at the end of an obscure article in the inside pages of his paper. The editor of the local broadsheet where the, well, stormy weather report came out wrote me to say he was following suit.

Irate Nagueños, however, thought being fired was the least of the punishments the culprit deserved. The things they had in mind were far more arduous than the Palaro games.

* * *

Why the Palaro? You'd think that as a matter of priority, the government would make it last, seemingly having no end of important things to spend money on.

You'd think so, but you'd be wrong. At the very least, better the games kids play than the games adults play. Games like the war games that are currently being played in Basilan and in the hearts and minds of Filipinos. Or games like the ones the overgrown kids are playing in the Senate.

But more than that, there's something exalted about the sight of (real) kids exerting themselves to push the limits of the possible. Neither man nor country lives by bread alone. They live too by dreams, and that's what games like these help bring. They give people a reason to hope, they give a country a need to aspire.

That makes all the difference.

Fear of the unknown

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I WAS chatting with Sen. Rene Cayetano recently about last week's Senate coup and he admitted that he had been hearing about it days earlier. In fact, at the gathering in Malacañang last June 1, on the assumption by President Macapagal of the chairmanship of Lakas, he warned her as well as Presidential Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio and a few colleagues from the Senate about it. Apparently few took his warning seriously.

Cayetano related that during the urgent caucus of the administration party at Senate President Franklin Drilon's office that Monday afternoon, Majority Leader Loren Legarda related that she called up Sen. Edgardo Angara the day before to ask about the rumored shakeup, and Angara assured her there was nothing to worry about (the opposition was set to meet that night at Sen. Tessie Oreta's house to discuss the coup). Which is why, a very angry Legarda confronted Angara that Monday afternoon, when he and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel presented to Drilon the resolution signed by 11 opposition senators and Sen. John Osmeña calling for a reorganization.

* * *

The opposition move caught the majority flatfooted, and in the next two and a half hours of caucus, they deliberated on various moves to counteract the coup, such as filibustering, engaging their colleagues in debates, etc. At the session hall where the opposition began a rump session, the senators were on pins and needles, pondering what countermove their colleagues were plotting in Drilon's office. In fact, Pimentel called Drilon twice to find out if he was coming down. Finally, at about 4:30 p.m., Cayetano suggest that their group boycott the coup plotters' session since joining them would only give their move a stamp of legitimacy. It made sense. Drilon's group waited until the rump session was finished, and then he led the remaining senators into the hall ostensibly to call the session to order, but ended up adjourning for "lack of quorum."

Now, says Cayetano, the opposition is in a real quandary as they realize that, as according to a principle of criminal law, "one cannot partake of the fruit of a poisoned tree." He opined that the rump session was illegal and so all its acts are null and void.

* * *

With the opening of classes in the public schools just a week away, Education Secretary Raul Roco met with some columnists in an effort to explain the new Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) which has drawn a lot of controversy lately. It's all systems go for the BEC in the public schools but private schools are free to adopt the BEC as they wish. He pointed out, however, that 75 percent of private schools have adopted it.

Roco stressed that the implementation of the BEC is long-overdue, as it is the product of 16 years of study under several of his predecessors. Since 1995, intensive consultations were held with various groups directly involved in education: schools, educators, parents, students, business, trade and industry, NGOs, and DepEd officials and personnel. In fact, Roco said, the Philippine Commission on Educational Reforms created during President Joseph Estrada's time through EO 48 and chaired by a veteran educator, Dr. Victor Ordoñez, who headed the education division of the Unesco in both Paris and Bangkok, recommended the adoption of the restructured BEC and its implementation starting 2002.

When Roco came into office, he continued the consultations with all the 16 regional directors, 145 school superintendents, at least 20,000 principals and representative teachers of various levels. Afterwards he switched on the green light for BEC.

* * *

So where is the opposition to BEC coming from? Roco stressed that it was coming from a very small sector, albeit quite noisy in the media, among them a teacher of a vocational electrical course and a sector of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers. But ranged against them, he said, are major educators and educators' groups, among them the World Council for Curriculum and Instruction-Philippine chapter, a group of professional educators from pre-school to the post-graduate level, and the Philippine Home Economics Association, a professional group of home economists with more than 1,000 members. Roco pointed out that proof of private school participation is that Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, S.J., president of the Ateneo University, who holds a Ph.D. in mathematics from Stanford University, played a big role in designing the math component of BEC.

* * *

I told Roco that the opposition to the "millennium curriculum" stems from fear of the unknown: the BEC has not been tried before. There are also fears that it would result in the lay-off of so many teachers, which he allays by pointing out that in fact, 15,000 new teachers have been hired this school year.

As Roco explained it, the BEC seeks to address the problem of low functional literacy, now placed at only 57 percent, and the inability of students to read with comprehension in Grade 3 and sometimes even Grade 6. Roco said BEC seeks to develop critical thinking among our students and empower learners for "lifelong learning" and college work.

How? By having a curriculum that, to borrow the DepEd buzzwords, is focused, integrated, uncluttered and decongested. Roco explained that the old curriculum was based on what the laws provide but added that if all the laws are to be implemented, schools would be teaching 60 subjects. He noted with some pride that even US President Bush "is copying us" Last February, Bush signed the Basic Education Act in response to the fact that the US has fallen to No. 9 in math among many countries surveyed.

(To be continued.)

Terror threats to US permanent

NEWS ANALYSIS

Kate Deddall

WASHINGTON—The terrorist threat against the United States is an "enduring vulnerability" and a "permanent condition," the top presidential anti-terrorism advisor said Sunday.

One of the challenges the United States faces is "the random, unpredictable nature of international terrorism," homeland security chief Tom Ridge said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"We need to accept the notion that this is an enduring vulnerability, this is a permanent condition," Ridge said. "Literally you have thousands and thousands of people located in 40 or 50 countries around the world who look at the United States as the primary target."

In a statement Sunday, the US Coast Guard announced a credible underwater terrorist threat in the far northwestern state of Washington. "Based on information received across the US government, there is a credible threat to maritime interests from swimmers and divers," said the statement, issued by the guard's Marine Safety Office Puget Sound office.

President George W. Bush's surprise proposal to create an entire government department devoted to shielding the United States against terrorism was based on continuing analysis of such threats, as well as information gleaned during the war against the al-Qaida network in Afghanistan and elsewhere, Ridge said.

"We've learned how sophisticated they are, how resolute they are," Ridge said of the network blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks. "Even if you get Osama bin Laden, and we will, there will be a successor."

Appointed homeland security adviser the month after the terror strikes that killed 3,000 in a single morning, Ridge was among the small group of White House advisers who developed plans for the new department.

> Bush's surprise proposal to create an entire government department devoted to shielding the United States against terrorism was based on continuing analysis of such threats

Bush "gave us the task of designing...a comprehensive national strategy," Ridge said in a separate interview on CBS television.

He and his staff sought input "privately, quietly" from governors, mayors, police and fire departments, and the private sector, he added.

Top cabinet members such as Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell were informed of the massive proposed government restructuring the day Bush announced it publicly, Ridge affirmed.

The proposed department—the most far-ranging government restructuring since the creation of the Defense Department and the National Security Council at the outset of the Cold War in 1947—would draw its 170,000 employees and $37-billion budget from some 100 government agencies.

It would consolidate under one umbrella border security agencies such as the Coast Guard, Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service and Border Patrol. The newly formed Transportation Security Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and specialized segments of the Energy Department and the Department of Health and Human Services would also fall under the new department's aegis.

"We'll have greater efficiency, greater energy, clearer vision," Ridge said, though noting that blending the different agencies into one department would be a challenge.

The new department, which must still be approved by Congress, has been generally well-received on Capitol Hill, where a vigorous investigation into intelligence failures prior to Sept. 11 is underway.

A top Democratic legislator—Dick Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority in the House of Representatives—even offered Saturday to jointly create the new agency by Sept.11, the anniversary of the suicide attacks.

"I don't know whether they can get it done by Sept. 11th," Ridge said on NBC Sunday. "There's still a lot of heavy lifting. This is a historic, major transformation of how government operates." **AFP**

Heartbreaker

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

IT'S bad enough when you hear Filipinos claim we haven't got any culture to show off, unlike the temples and shopping centers of Thailand (which took five years to prepare for their "Visit Thailand" promo), Indonesia's Borobodur or Cambodia's Angkor Wat. But when you read a fellow Filipino write that the Philippines "suffers from a paucity of natural attractions" that's really painful.

Perhaps it's a question of taste: what one person may find beautiful may be abhorrent to another. It's true that the view of the Manila Bay sunset on Roxas Boulevard has been damaged forever by that wretched reclamation project and Burnham's grandiose concept of extending the boulevard to Sangley Point in Cavite has been reduced to cementing hectares of bay. Between the real estate developments of Tan Yu, Henry Sy and George Ty, the Filipino of the 21st century can enjoy a fine view of concrete structures leading to and from Binondo.

The same may be said for that once awesome view from the Tagaytay Ridge of Taal Volcano and its lake that today is hidden from ordinary mortals' eyes by privately owned structures that effectively block it. Talk about elitism.

The Filipino hasn't begun to understand the meaning of democratic. When Donald Trump tried to obtain a permit to construct high rises that would cast a shadow on parts of Central Park, New Yorkers rose in protest. Needless to say he lost. When the mayor of the capital of the Philippines plans to obliterate some more the little open space left in an overcrowded city, did you hear one senator (well, okay, Sen. Loren Legarda did for a while), congressman or even the President protest vigorously? Don't be silly. As one senator commented, "We have other priorities." (Yeah, sure; the 2004 elections. By now, everyone knows that.)

We could go on and on. There's Boracay which is now overbuilt with wall to wall "resorts" and a golf course on an island that has no water. Baguio, the summer capital, once famous for the smell of pines, now swelters in the heat and is becoming notorious for the fumes spewed by hordes of jeepneys, its quaint colonial architecture mowed down and replaced by ubiquitous concrete boxes. Pangasinan's Hundred Islands is being overrun by garbage and feces, its corals rotting from cyanide and dynamite fishing. I'm afraid Dan Mariano of Today was right when he wrote of "the Filipino penchant for making a mess everywhere they settle or just pass by."

But I do not agree that we were poor in the beauty of our natural landscapes. It's merely that one has to go farther and farther afield, and there's no guarantee that the Abu Sayaff or some other bandits won't be waiting to make a buck if you venture into our southern provinces. Nearer to us, there's still Bohol although the Department of Tourism chose to develop Samal Island instead and cemented the bejesus out of it, so perhaps it's a good thing it bypassed Bohol. There's Boljoon, a jewel of whose existence many Cebuanos are not even aware.

And there's Siquijor, but the government has been turning blind eye to the dreadful destruction of their landscape. As you approach the island from Dumaguete, you see this white wound on a mountain where the dynamiting for lime goes on. The whole island trembles when the charges are set off. Apparently the high-grade lime is exported directly to Hong Kong where it is used in making porcelain. How the people of Siquijor benefit from this demolition is obviously regarded as an irrelevant question. You can only wonder what its mayor, governor and congressman, who the last I heard all bore the same surname, have to say about it or are doing to protect the environment. The island could well have been developed into a tourist destination, but with that scar of greed blighting the seascape who'd want to go there?

I must further disagree with Dan Mariano when he states that "nature has been most stingy in endowing this archipelago with tourist-drawing wonders." Bali, as far as I could see, had none at all. Yet the development plan drawn up by the World Tourism Organization in the 1970s and followed faithfully has borne fruit and Bali is one of the prime tourist destinations in the world even if its beaches cannot hold a candle to ours. (Just for the record: you can see workers there cleaning the beaches of debris every day—something that is apparently beyond our ken together with maintaining decent restrooms.)

Mariano continues: "What little there is by way of historical interest is invariably tied to some former colonial overlord, whose structures we have not even been careful to preserve. Our entire record is bracketed by brief tours of Intramuros and Corregidor. Tourists with a more scholarly bent might take a trip to Vigan, only to realize that they have traveled all that far for a chintzy interpretation of Spanish colonialism as detailed in the old Zaide history book for grade-schoolers."

Ouch. And he didn't even mention the Manila Hotel, once among the world's top five hostels and today not even mentioned in passing by travel writers.

I have to agree that we don't even have the common sense to preserve what little of our architectural heritage remains and exploit it for the good of the people. So what if they're reminders of a colonial past? (Take Vietnam and those French villas or Shanghai and the Bund. Does this make the Vietnamese or the Chinese less nationalistic?) Will the adaptive reuse of colonial structures for tourism purposes improve the lives of Samareños or Leyteños, for example? Unfortunately, it is becoming abundantly clear that a gulf exists between the private agenda of public officials and the welfare of the people.

Frustrations of a feminist

YOUNGBLOOD

Donalyne Rasalan Lampa

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

CONTRARY to what the folks from the Department of Tourism are saying, there are many reasons to hate Manila. For one thing, it is home to a lot of sexists. I get sad every time I'm reminded that I live in a city where people (both men and women, mind you) still believe that there are things we women shouldn't do because of the seemingly monumental fact that God made us females.

For example, people generally think women who pursue the men they want are easy. Tell a guy you like him, and he and his friends will be talking about your supposed promiscuity the next time they hang around. If girls get to overhear them, they will make a big deal about it, too. Women are expected to pray to St. Valentine while we patiently (and pathetically) wait by the phone for that one call that will start it all. Funny how most of us women act as if we do not know how to use the goddamn phone when we want to chat with the men we're interested in.

We are not expected to be "gentlewomen" either. (I still have to put the word in quotation marks because while there is such a word in the dictionary, it's not that familiar.) One afternoon a few months back, I stood up and offered my seat in a jam-packed MRT couch to an old man who had gotten on board because he was obviously having a hard time holding on to the railings to keep himself from falling. Surprisingly (or should I say expectedly?), his face turned beet-red. He declined at first, so I had to smile and politely assure him that it was all right. (I swear I wanted to tell him bluntly, *"Lolo, matutumba na kayo, nagpapamacho pa kayo diyan!"*) Only when it became apparent to him that I was determined did he finally give in.

Once again, I felt frustrated at the reinforcement of my thinking that in Manila (and probably everywhere else), the license to be gentle is given only to men.

But no matter how pissed off I am, I still see the comical side to all the sexism around. People try to come up with justifications for the infamous (and, in my opinion, unjustifiable) *"kasi babae"* reasoning. What's more, women actually buy the crap they make up. My former high school classmates claim that men should be the ones pursuing us because they care for us a lot and they want to spare us the agony of being turned down flat. (I wonder if they think we're not strong enough for that because we're not men.) My blockmates at the University of the Philippines say men act like gentlemen as a way of showing us that we are treasured and respected. A female classmate is even convinced that we really are weaker (which, of course, is not true, but to explain why will take an academic essay). Worse, society has been, either consciously or unconsciously, placing these chauvinist pigs on pedestals, making them think they're magnanimous.

I have exhausted all means to point out to them that when a person cannot, should not, or must not do something not because they cannot do it but because of what's between their thighs, then that is sexism. And that is precisely what they're doing. But they keep holding on to their beliefs while I do the same with mine, until we all get exhausted and put it all off until the next time the topic comes up again.

I admit that there was a time when I believed Mama when she said that decent women waited for men to make the first move. I also thought my teachers were right in saying that the nicest and noblest of men were the gentlemen who offered to help women all the time.

But that was ages ago, before I started to ask why the heck we are deemed to be perverse when we do certain things that are not necessarily wrong, and before the answer to that question gave me more than enough reason to become a feminist.

In the end, I see people who are afraid of setting foot on an even playing field. I see men who are scared of having their egos crushed once society starts accepting women who court men the way it does men who court women. I see women who are unnerved by the fact that if egalitarianism were to be the way of life, then they could no longer expect to be seated in a jam-packed bus because their having boobs and asses would not matter anymore. I see people who are petrified by the thought of having to work twice as hard (or even more than that) just to get the privileges that now come with being a woman or a man.

And just when I think I've had more than my share of hang-ups, I remember that, like me, they grew up in a sexist society and were taught by sexist teachers (who also grew up in environments that were as sexist as the one they're living in). So I end up all the more frustrated because I am raging against all bigots which I should not be doing because we are all victims of our patriarchal society.

As if managing to survive from day to day is not enough of a struggle already, I still have to put up with sexists who make life harder for a feminist like me. But then, it could also be said that I made my life a living hell when I decided to abhor machismo and embrace the egalitarian way of thinking.

Come to think of it, maybe I'm partly to blame as well.

Donalyne Rasalan Lampa, 18, is an incoming junior journalism student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, whose blood boils when she hears sexist remarks.

THEY SAID

Back in the RTC

"Why did (the Supreme Court) have to remand the case to the same RTC judge who dismissed the case? And aren't 15 heads better than one? What can the RTC judge do that the Supreme Court justices can't do?"

—Former anti-narcotics agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong on the Kuratong Baleleng case

Melting profits

"We can't afford to continue losing money."

—Universal Robina Corp. president Lance Gokongwei on his company's decision to close its ice cream unit

Money talks

"I call it bounty madness or bounty hysteria, even bounty fever."

—Acting Press Sec. Silvestre Afable Jr. on the reaction of Basilan residents to $5 million bounty for information on Abu Sayyaf

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LETTERS

A circus that doesn't entertain

I WRITE to express my disgust at the current antics of the members of the Senate, as well as the preoccupation of the media with this spectacle.

My family and I participated in Edsa II, to rid our country of a corrupt and immoral president. We had hoped that all of our politicians would thereafter understand the people's impatient call for good governance. What followed was a big disappointment.

We are still saddled with elected legislators whose only concern appears to be committee chairmanships and their reelection. Shortly after the 2001 elections, all their focus is on the 2004 electoral exercises. Will there ever be time reserved for serving the Filipino people, rather than the politicians, self-interests?

I am neither pro-administration nor pro-opposition. I am an ordinary businessman, and like my friends in business, all I ask for is a favorable business climate that will allow us to help achieve economic growth. Political confusion does not help. We do not want to be forced to send our children abroad because there is no future for the Philippines.

A, recent banner headline said "The Senate circus goes on." Well this circus does not entertain, it disgusts.

—MARIO A. ORETA, 10/F DPC Place Bldg., 2322 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City

Correct statistics on malnutrition

THIS is to clarify some of the statistics on malnutrition cited in the June 2 issue of the INQUIRER.

Contrary to the published report, the number of malnourished children or children who are underweight for their age is not 15.6 million but 6.5 million: 3.5 million in the 0-5 years old age bracket and 3.0 million in the 6-10 years old age bracket. This is according the 1998 and 2001 national nutrition surveys conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology.

It was argued that malnutrition got worse from 1996 to 2002 in the Philippines because we had a population growth rate of 2.36 percent and an agriculture growth rate of 2.1 6 percent in the '90s. We would like to state that the 2.16 percent agriculture growth for the 1990s has significantly improved during the last three years. In the period from 1999 to 2001, agriculture grew at 4.65 percent a year, a rate that was much higher than the population growth rate of 2.36 percent. In the first quarter of 2002, agriculture grew by 4.4 percent, which augurs well for the government's efforts to close the nutrition gap under the Macapagal administration.

Compared to other Asian countries, we are better off than Bangladesh, India, Cambodia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Indonesia, although worse off than Malaysia and Thailand.

Malnutrition is a complex problem because it arises from a host of interrelated factors although poverty is its root cause. Trends in malnutrition suggest a very fragile situation so that modest gains can be wiped out by economic shocks and even natural and manmade disasters, which can be both global or local. Thus, addressing malnutrition effectively requires measures and investments that will address these factors and reduce vulnerability to such shocks. Agricultural development will be a key strategy, since many of the poor are in the rural areas. Sad to say, the food producers themselves are among the hungry and malnourished.

Also important are both basic and nutrition education. Efforts should be directed to the promotion of breastfeeding, proper feeding of infants from six months onward, and proper nutritional care of pregnant and lactating women. Promoting these requires innovative education strategies. Labor and health policies will also have to be revisited to create an environment that is conducive to these concerns.

But then again, these efforts can only do so much to solve malnutrition. The country needs to intensify its programs to promote equity and social justice. Poverty alleviation in both the rural and urban sectors is critical. Agriculture modernization is pivotal, together with complementary efforts of other sectors in the economy.

—ELSA M. BAYANI, executive director, National Nutrition Council, Villamor Interchange, South Superhighway, Makati City

A good word for SWI

IN THE PAST month, I have read so many complaints and criticisms regarding the services as well as security lapses at Slimmer's World International (SWI). As a member of this gym, I was quite disturbed by this turn of events.

I believe I am part of the silent majority of satisfied SWI customers. Yes, there might have been security lapses but many unfortunate incidents could have been avoided if the proper precautions had been taken and if some people were not so careless. Even five-star hotels have their share of shortcomings and unfortunate incidents.

Little has been said about the good things that happen at SWI. I recall the kindness of one gym instructor at SWI Pan Pacific who turned over my wallet to the front desk when it accidentally fell as I was changing into my exercise outfit. The personnel at SWI were certainly helpful, from the front desk people, the gym instructors to the janitors (who were always faithful in storing items left by customers).

The equipment at the SWI gym are well maintained and the place is clean. After everything that has been said about SWI, I still believe that it has been faithful in providing service to its clientele.

Kudos and more power to Slimmer's World.

—RENATO B. LUCAS, 1862 Eureka St., Makati City

One in a million

"ROCO commends teacher for honesty," the INQUIRER reported last May 29.

The teacher, Marilyn Bien-Bongiad, deserves more than just a commendation. She must be given something concrete, something tangible. The least that should be given to her is a promotion, from teacher to principal in a city public school. In addition, she should be given a house and lot in the place where she will be assigned.

I say it again, that's the least that must be given to her, if we want others to follow her example. And that's because she not only gave the most important lesson of her life but her fate would be the most important lesson that the school can give to students. Remember, she did not return just P6,000, or P60,000, or even P600,000; she returned more than P6 million! There could be no honest doubt about it: she is one in a million—or is it six million? Need I say more?

—FRANCISCO T. CARASIG JR., Inagawan Sub-Colony, IPPF, 5301 Puerto Princesa City

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North of Manila

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"DO we go back now to Manila?" our driver Mang Romy asked in Tagalog. Mang Romy is one of our university drivers and his question struck me as amusing. We were in Bagong Silang, which is part of Caloocan City, and last I heard, Caloocan City was still part of Metro Manila.

But I wasn't surprised by his question. Mang Romy's Metro Manila ends with the UP campus in Diliman. North of Mang Romy's restricted Manila is an area which, like a poor cousin, we prefer to keep out of sight, out of mind. Yet it is this area that has grown most rapidly in the last 20 years, fuelling Metropolitan Manila's growth with a large reserve labor force as well as a bustling population of consumers.

Commonwealth Avenue, the main artery that runs through this section, is itself a focal point for a study in urban development and its paradoxes. On one hand, we have the large malls and upper middle class subdivisions telling us about what went right with development, of professionals and business people who made it.

But interspersed between the shopping malls and towering churches (including the Iglesia ni Cristo's national headquarters and a replica, in name and in dome, of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome) are the shanties and hovels, inhabited largely by migrants from rural areas. Payatas, with its notorious garbage dumps, is located in the area, perilously and symbolically close to the Batasan, where lawmakers deliver endless speeches about poverty.

Commonwealth throbs with life, but it is life on the edge, exemplified by the many pedestrians and tricycles scurrying about, occasionally making the mad, almost suicidal dash across eight lanes of the highway.

Drive on past SM Fairview and you get to the heart of the new Metro Manila. Straddling Quezon City and Caloocan is the most densely populated part of Metro Manila, with several communities, each with its own character.

There's a small subdivision called Jordan, all its streets named after Old Testament characters. Emerging from the subdivision, you end up in Camarin, Novaliches, a resettlement area. Camarin cuts through Tala, site of the leprosarium, where there are still patients but the community itself has many cured Hansenites who have decided to stay on. Here in Tala, no one stares if you lack an ear, or a nose. Pinoy-style, one area of Tala is now called "Malaria" because the Department of Health used to have a malaria center there.

After Camarin is another resettlement area, Bagong Silang, said to be the country's largest barangay. The resettled families are migrants several times over. There are Muslims who first moved from Mindanao to Quiapo and were then ejected and moved here. There are also people from all over the country who ended up "squatters" at the UP Diliman campus and were then resettled in Bagong Silang.

If some of Tala's residents have problems explaining why they live on "Malaria Street, Tala," Bagong Silang is marked by impersonal geographical divisions. A typical address would read: "Phase 7, Package 2, Block 8, Lot 16." No names of saints, heroes and, maybe just as well, politicians' parents or grandparents.

No one seems to know what Bagong Silang's population is, but I've heard figures of up to one million, which may seem excessive when you consider that the entire Caloocan City, according to the 2000 census, only has 1.1 million people.

But who knows? Maybe they do have a million crammed into those packages and blocks and lots. Bagong Silang still attracts people from all over. Residents have "rights" over where they live, and will eventually own their houses and lots when they finish their payments to the National Housing Authority. Without having to worry about eviction teams, people seem to care more about the community than those living, say, in Payatas.

The place remains dirt-poor. *Sari-sari* stores sell tiny packets of spices and condiments—a packet here with four peppercorns, another with three strings of banana blossoms, which is about all people can afford at one time.

When I needed to withdraw money I was told there was no bank ATM in Bagong Silang; people don't earn enough to maintain an account for an ATM card. No, they don't have ATMs here, but they sure have a lot of pawnshops.

The pawnshops do seem smaller than those in other parts of Manila. It almost seems as if some alien from outer space had zapped familiar shops, such as Tambunting's Pawnshop and 7-11, and shrunk them down to transplant in Bagong Silang. One Acebedo Optical Shop has about 30 square meters of space (I still have to figure out how they check a patient's eyesight, unless they're asked to read the store signs across the street.)

Or the many political posters and handbills plastered on the walls. Both Camarin and Bagong Silang are highly politicized. Politicians know the area is vote-rich. The President recently visited one of Bagong Silang's "phases" to inaugurate a new housing project, and there are billboards everywhere to remind residents about who donated this health center or that basketball court.

But people aren't that gullible either. They play the game, negotiating with politicians during elections but also taking to the streets. The walls in Bagong Silang are plastered with numerous handbills announcing the latest protest activities against government.

When night falls, the pace slows down, from Commonwealth down to Bagong Silang. The dim streetlights cast long, almost sad shadows of people trudging along beneath signs saying, "Jesus Saves!" and "Kalaguyo," past the One Hundred Peso Store and the Connie Francis ice cream vendors.

North of Manila is about dreams fulfilled and about dreaming on.

Why no World Cup coverage on TV?

WHY is it that none of our local free channels is airing the World Cup? The government channel used to beam the games live, with local anchorpersons doing the annotation.

Even cable operators do not carry the World Cup in any of their major sports channels. My cable operator carries the games in the Thai channel where of course I cannot understand a frigging thing about what the sportscasters are saying. Dreamcast offers to bring the games to your homes but you have to rent their receiver and post a bond. Is there a conspiracy to compel Filipino soccer fans to troop to pubs and hotels in order to watch the games live?

To think that the World Cup is just being held nearby in Japan and South Korea which spares us the inconvenience of having to watch at unholy hours like the soccer fans in Europe and the Americas.

How can soccer draw more fans in the Philippines as you wished in your June 4 editorial, if the simple act of bringing the games to the comfort of our homes cannot be done? Sad to say, we do tend to confine ourselves to a sport we know we can never win in a world event, which is basketball. The first step toward making us realize that "there's a whole world outside of basketball" is to allow us to watch the soccer games live—and in English, if not Filipino.

—LUIS ANGEL G. ASEOCHE, 7th Flr., Kalaw-Ledesma Cond., 117 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

70 Israeli tanks encircle Arafat HQ in Ramallah

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Israeli tanks and troops charged into Ramallah before sunrise Monday, surrounding the compound of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and arresting 20 suspected militants in searches throughout the city.

The latest Israeli incursion into Palestinian territory came just hours before Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was to meet US President George W. Bush at the White House. Bush has been strongly supportive of Sharon during the Mideast conflict, raising only occasional and relatively mild objections to Israeli military actions directed at Palestinian militants.

In another development, Palestinian police on Sunday arrested a senior leader of the militant group Islamic Jihad, which carried out a suicide attack last Wednesday that killed 17 Israelis.

Sheik Abdullah Shami, the Islamic Jihad leader in the Gaza Strip, was arrested in his neighborhood in Gaza City, group officials said. Arafat's leadership issued orders to arrest Islamic Jihad members after the Wednesday bombing.

In Ramallah, the Israeli raid was aimed at arresting Palestinian suspects, and the soldiers surrounded Arafat's compound to prevent Palestinian gunmen from seeking refuge there, the Army said. The military did not attack the compound itself, as it did last Thursday, when it blew up three buildings in retaliation for the Palestinian suicide bombing a day earlier.

Arafat was inside the battered compound Monday and was unharmed, Palestinian officials said.

One Palestinian man was killed and two were wounded in exchanges of fire in the streets of Ramallah, Palestinian doctors said. Two soldiers were also wounded, the army said.

The incursion began around 4 a.m. (0100 GMT) Monday when tanks, armored personnel carriers, jeeps and infantry on foot entered Ramallah, which is just a few kilometers north of Jerusalem.

Soldiers moved among houses around the Amari refugee camp, entering one house as two trucks parked outside. Troops were on the move throughout the city and in suburban areas.

The Israeli Army statement said the troops would remain in Ramallah for a "limited time." Also, soldiers detained several suspects in nighttime raids in other parts of the West Bank, the statement added.

In a follow-up to a massive military incursion in the West Bank that ended a month ago, Israeli troops have been staging almost daily in-and-out raids in Palestinian cities, towns and villages. *AP*

Rumsfeld says Baghdad lying on nuke plans

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait—US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Monday dismissed claims by the Iraqi government that it had no nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and was making no effort to acquire them.

"They are lying," he told a news conference at Kuwait's international airport before flying to Bahrain.

The Iraqi foreign ministry in Baghdad issued a statement Sunday asserting the government of Saddam Hussein had neither made nor possessed weapons of mass destruction in more than a decade.

"Iraq has said on many occasions that it is not concerned with entering the mass destruction weapons club... We left it in 1991," the official statement said.

Earlier at Kuwait's Camp Doha, a desert encampment 35 miles from the Iraqi border, Rumsfeld told American troops that state sponsors of terrorism must be punished.

Without mentioning Iraq by name, Rumsfeld said the soldiers were on the front lines against a dangerous foe.

"You are the people who stand between freedom and fear, between our people and a dangerous adversary that cannot be appeased, cannot be ignored and cannot be allowed to win," he told about 1,000 troops assembled in an air-conditioned gymnasium on a 110-degree Fahrenheit (43 Celsius) afternoon Sunday. *AP*

Indon cops look into series of blasts

JAKARTA—Police said Monday they would examine earlier bombings that rocked Indonesia's capital to see if they are connected to a weekend blast outside a discotheque that injured four people.

Police said they had no suspects in Sunday's blast but had arrested and charged a parking lot attendant Monday with failing to report the bomb after he found it inside a bag.

They also said they were interviewing dozens of other people in the ongoing investigation.

"He (the attendant) is not the real perpetrator," police spokesman Anton Bachrul Alam said. "But he committed negligence since he knew the bomb could endanger somebody's life but failed to report it to authorities."

The blast in a northern section of Jakarta was reminiscent of other bombings in the capital in the past two years that have been blamed on Islamic militants. A bomb exploded in a Jakarta shopping mall last year and a string of bombings damaged churches across the capital in 2000.

Two people were sentenced to death earlier this year in the mall bombing. *AP*

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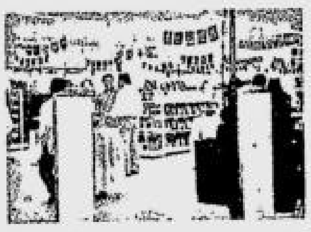
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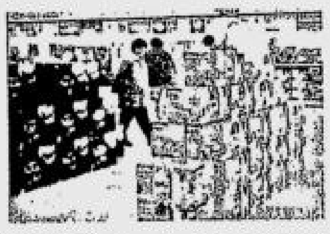
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Five more North Koreans seek asylum in Beijing

BEIJING—Five North Koreans entered diplomatic missions in Beijing over the weekend in the latest of a string of attempts by asylum seekers to flee their hunger-stricken Communist homeland.

Two North Korean men, believed to be in their 20s, got into the Canadian Embassy compound on Saturday evening, an embassy spokesperson said on Monday. She declined to give details.

Two women and a toddler entered the South Korean consulate on Sunday afternoon, taking to eight the total number of North Koreans holed up there, a South Korean diplomat said.

"Two women, one 24 and one 28 years old, got in on Sunday afternoon. There was also a two-year-old boy with them," the diplomat said. "They may have got in because it was a holiday, but I'm not sure of the details."

In a spate of defections since March, China has allowed 38 North Koreans who defected at foreign diplomatic missions to travel to South Korea via third countries.

However, China—North Korea's closest ally—has now ringed the walls of many of the diplomatic compounds in Beijing with barbed wire and limited access to roads alongside them.

South Korea is already in delicate talks with China over the fate of the earlier asylum seekers.

The negotiations are taking place against the backdrop of the soccer World Cup, with the Chinese national team playing its first round games in South Korea.

On Saturday night, the night the asylum-seekers entered the Canadian mission, China lost 4-0 to Brazil.

Seoul has said the five North Koreans must have the final say on where they go next and has asked China to allow them to travel to South Korea. But China has taken a harder line in this case involving South Korea, Pyongyang's rival. *Reuters*

DELEGATES (left photo) to the loya jirga, or grand council, arrive from eastern Paktia province to the Afghan capital of Kabul to choose a new government to run the country pending elections in about 18 months. A British soldier (right photo) stands guard outside the compound where the loya jirga will take place June 10-16 amid fears Taliban and al-Qaida forces will try to disrupt the proceedings.

AP AND REUTERS

Controversy over ex-king's role delays convening of loya jirga

KABUL—The loya jirga, the grand council called to organize a new government and give war-weary Afghans hope for a peaceful future, was in trouble even before it began, with controversy over the former king's role delaying Monday's scheduled opening by a day.

Diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, cited reports that Mohammad Arif, the country's intelligence chief and a key Northern Alliance leader, sent armed men into the tightly guarded loya jirga compound, where delegates were waiting for the meeting to open. There were concerns they were sent in as a sign of control by minority Tajiks, who now hold the key Cabinet portfolios of defense, interior and foreign ministry.

Leaders of the Northern Alliance who dominate the interim regime want no role for the ex-monarch, Mohammad Zaher Shah, in the new administration, while there have been reports that others within the government and delegates to the loya jirga want him to play a significant role. Negotiations went late into the night Sunday.

"(Ismail) Qasim Yar thinks it will be delayed 24 hours," foreign ministry spokesperson Omar Samad said, referring to the loya jirga commission head. Interim Prime Minister Hamid Karzai's office later confirmed the delay.

The 1,550 delegates, among them 200 women, had been scheduled to convene Monday morning to begin the task of electing a head of state, deciding the framework of the transitional government and naming ministers to key posts. The new government will lead for 18 months pending elections.

Zaher Shah, who returned to his homeland last April after 29 years in exile, has been touted as the man who can unify Afghanistan, fractured by decades of war that has given rise to bitter ethnic differences.

Ethnic Tajiks, who dominate the former Northern Alliance, are in power today and Afghanistan's largest community, the Pashtuns, has been largely sidelined because it is the ethnic group of the deposed Taliban.

Since the Taliban were driven from power last year by the United States and its Northern Alliance allies, many Pashtuns have complained of discrimination and brutality at the hands of the Tajiks.

A truck driver from eastern Afghanistan, Gul Mohammed, pulled back his shirt to show his bruises. He held up an empty money pouch, complaining he had been robbed by ethnic Tajiks in uniform who stopped him as part of security for the loya jirga.

"They said 'What can you do? We will say you are Taliban,'" Mohammed said.

When the Taliban ruled, they sidelined the country's minority ethnic groups too. Before them, the Tajiks squandered their first opportunity at rule when they sidelined ethnic Pashtuns after the pro-Communist government collapsed in 1992.

"People say they have learned their lessons, but they haven't learned any lessons. Everyone just wants power. Now they will try to hold on to power, and there will be fighting—again," sighed Musa Jan, a businessman in Kabul. "We want the loya jirga to get rid of all these leaders. We want new ones." *AP*

A legend of buzkashi, bloodshed

KABUL—Imagine a vast hall packed with hundreds of men sporting taffeta turbans, Persian lamb hats or embroidered quilt coats.

They debate for days, maybe weeks, in their Pashto and Dari tongues, throwing in the occasional Koranic quote in Arabic.

At some point, consensus gels around a new leader for Afghanistan. Their work over, the delegates head off to watch a round of the reckless national game of buzkashi.

Old enemies and new friends hail each other, hand over heart, in an atmosphere of warmth and wariness.

This is the Loya Jirga, the Grand Council of the consultative system that the proudly independent Afghans have used for more than 1,000 years to settle affairs of the nation or rally behind a cause.

On Monday, 1,501 Afghans revive that tradition after a break of nearly four decades with their former king, Mohammad Zahir Shah, set to preside.

There are many breaks with the past. Delegates will leave their weapons at the door, air-conditioners will cool the dusty summer air and women will be among the number.

But an endless stream of steaming-hot tea will still fuel the interminable discussions among Afghan elders not known for speed in reaching a decision. *Reuters*

Chirac's conservatives headed for control of parliament

PARIS—France's mainstream right won a solid victory in a first-round parliamentary vote, putting newly re-elected President Jacques Chirac on course to push through his pro-business, tough-on-crime agenda.

Like the left, the extreme right suffered a setback in Sunday's vote, which came more than a month after its leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, stunned the country with his strong showing in presidential elections.

A record number of voters stayed home—nearly 35 percent-meaning there could be surprises in the final vote a week from now, especially if the left mobilizes. Leaders across the political spectrum urged people to vote on June 16, and conservatives were cautious about celebrating.

"The first round is a message," Chirac's justice minister, Dominique Perben, said. "The real decisive round is the second round."

With nearly 98 percent of the vote counted, the mainstream right won 43.5 percent of the vote of the vote in the race for France's 577-seat National Assembly. The combined mainstream left—who have controlled the assembly for five years—had 36 percent, the interior ministry said.

It was unclear whether the far-right National Front would win any seats in parliament. Le Pen's anti-immigration party scored about 11.2 percent, down from 14.9 percent in the last parliamentary election in 1997.

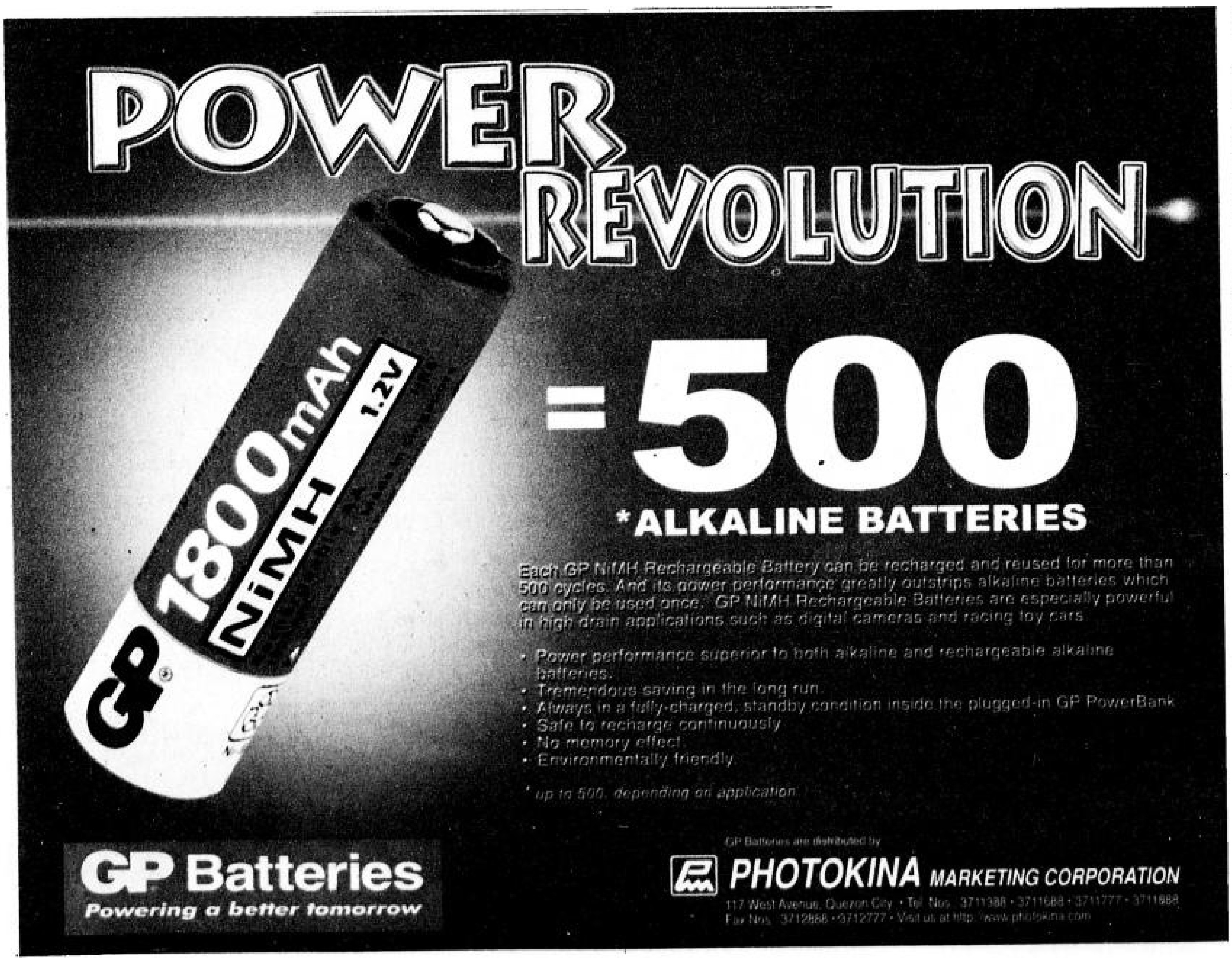
Le Pen, who astonished France by winning 16.8 percent in the first-round presidential elections in April, complained that France had "just handed itself over to Jacques Chirac."

"I'm sad for (the French) and for France," he told reporters.

Together, the extreme right took 12.6 percent of the vote in Sunday's first round, the interior ministry said. Extreme left parties took nearly 2.8 percent of the vote.

The Socialists had 23.9 percent, while Chirac's broad coalition of mainstream right parties, called the Union for the Presidential Majority, won 33.3 percent.

"The Right's Turn," read the banner headline in the left-leaning daily Liberation, suggesting victory by the right after five years of a leftist-controlled parliament. Other papers carried similar headlines. *AP*



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Church admits hush payments

SYDNEY—The Catholic Church has admitted in a sudden about face that secrecy clauses were included in payments to victims of sex abuse by its clergy, but claimed its leaders were unaware of them.

The admission was made by leading lawyer John McCarthy of the Catholic Lawyers' Guild, who said Monday that the clauses had been inserted contrary to the directives of the bishops, including Sydney Archbishop George Pell.

McCarthy, a queen's counsel who was speaking on behalf of the church, maintained the clauses conformed to standard legal practice in terms of damages settlements, in cases such as a fall on school property.

"There is what is called a standard non-disclosure clause in damages settlements and these clauses seem to be completely at variance with what Church leaders, including Archbishop Pell, believed was happening," McCarthy told commercial television.

He said a clause of the Church's protocol specified that no complainant should be required to give an undertaking imposing an obligation of silence.

McCarthy also admitted that while the Church had made mistakes over the issue and over the implementation of church policy, it was "not something that cannot be dealt with."

"The Church is correcting itself to the extent that there have been mistakes," he said.

Pell, the most senior Catholic prelate in Australia and a hardline proponent of sexual morality, has persistently denied any attempt by him or the Church to cover up child sex abuse or hush up its victims.

As in the United States and elsewhere, the Church in Australia is now facing moral and financial crisis as the extent of the sex abuse scandal emerges. *AP*

No food shortage but 800M still hungry

ROME—Against the backdrop of possible famine in southern Africa and debate over genetically modified foods, delegates at the UN World Food Summit called Monday for governments to make good on pledges to end world hunger.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan opened the summit by urging greater access for the world's farmers to land, credit, markets and technology—including technology to help them grow more resistant crops.

"There is no shortage of food on the planet," Annan told delegates at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. "But while some countries produce more than they need to feed their people, others do not, and many of these cannot afford to import enough to make up the gap."

The summit is expected to conclude Thursday with a declaration recommitting governments to promises to cut hunger they made in 1996 at the first food summit.

During that meeting, delegates pledged to reduce the number of hungry people in the world from 800 million to 400 million by 2015.

Today, the number of people without enough to eat, however, remains at 800 million. "So there is no point in making further promises today," Annan said. "This summit must give renewed hope to those 800 million people by agreeing on concrete action."

Pope John Paul II, in a message read to the summit on his behalf, said the reasons that the 1996 goals hadn't been met were due to inertia, selfishness "and to international relations often shaped by pragmaticism devoid of ethical and moral grounds."

Annan cited the growing food crisis in southern Africa as an area for urgent action—an issue that is expected to figure prominently in speeches as well as in side events tackling issues such as the role of women in fighting rural hunger.

An estimated 12.8 million people in six southern African countries are at risk of starvation because of drought, floods, government mismanagement and economic instability.

Other issues are likely to crop up at the summit and on the sidelines as well—among them international trade policies, calls for delegates acknowledge the "right to food" for all, and the use of genetically altered seeds.

The United States has been a major advocate of genetically modified foods, arguing that the creation of drought-and-insect resistant crops ensures greater food security—a goal of the FAO.

Opponents say engineered crops pose environmental and health hazards and are designed to benefit the multinational corporations that develop them, not farmers or consumers.

US Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman said Sunday such opposition was due to ignorance about the benefits of biotechnology, which she said she would highlight in her speech later Monday.

"We are already seeing new products being developed that could help some of the more food-deficit regions of the world," she said in an interview, citing drought-resistant corn and Vitamin A-enriched rice. The United States has clashed with other delegations on another major issue on the agenda, that of having the summit agree to a code of conduct recognizing the "right to food" of the world's 6 billion people.

Late Sunday, a watered-down compromise appeared to have been reached on the final wording of the document, in which there would be no explicit recognition of the "right to food," the Italian group Other Agriculture said.

Delegates would instead call for a code of conduct that would "create the conditions necessary" to recognize the right to food, the group said.

The United States opposes the concept because it doesn't address practical ways of ending hunger but rather turns it into a philosophical debate, said Alan Larson, the undersecretary of state for economic affairs at the US Department of State and a delegation member. *AP*

Flooding kills 10 in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras—Intense overnight rains soaked much of Honduras early Sunday, triggering floods that killed at least 10 people, destroyed more than 1,000 homes and left a community in the southern border region cutoff from the outside world.

Authorities said seven people were killed and another six were missing and feared dead after flash floods tore through five hillside neighborhoods on the outskirts of the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa.

Among those killed was a man in the eastern neighborhood of 21 de Febrero, who drowned while trying to pull his son from floodwaters that engulfed their home. The boy remained missing Sunday afternoon, police said. *AP*

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Solon won't part with land for CARP

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A congressman refuses to budge in his fight to retain a piece of property that is being claimed by 13 agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Rep. Herminio Teves has filed a case against the 13 farmers questioning their claim.

In the case, Teves asked the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab) to invalidate a decision placing a 33-hectare land he owns under the coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The piece of property is in Barangay Caranoche, Bayawan City, about 105 km south of here.

The property is part of the 54-hectare land originally owned by Lourdes and Antonio Calumpang purchased by the late Sen. Lorenzo Teves, brother of Herminio.

Twenty-two hectares of the property were covered by land reform under the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The remaining 33-hectares were voluntarily offered for sale for the CARP by Lorenzo's representative, Ariston Teves.

In 1997, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) issued a Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) to the beneficiaries—Francisco Cacas, Elueteria Pabroa, Josefa Tenasas, Demetria Gabonita, Romualdo Hoyohoy, Wilfredo Beljot, Wilfredo Gocia, Ronilo Flores, Alexander Barmoa, Joel Torres, Eva Lajot, Efren Beredejo, Genovero Dacula, Rolando Flores, Michael Arbon, Diego Padilla, Pedro Binibili, Rodrigo Rombinez and Nelson Pabalate.

But the beneficiaries failed to take possession of the disputed property because Herminio, who has actual possession of the land, insisted ownership of it.

This prompted the beneficiaries to file a complaint before the Regional Agrarian Reform Adjudicator (Rarad) which ruled in favor of the farmers.

Herminio elevated the case to the Darab, which affirmed the Rarad's decision. Teves filed a motion for reconsideration but it was dismissed by the Darab last April for lack of merit.

Undaunted by the legal setback, Teves filed last May 10 a case with the Darab questioning again the coverage of the land under CARP. This time, however, he was joined by 15 other complainants claiming to have "preferential rights" over the disputed land.

Teves and company said they were "legitimate farm workers" of the land.

Among those who joined Teves in his complaint were Benito Olam, Manolo Canoy, Edgardo Onoyon, Fortunato Tampos, Romulo Lagarde, Rolando Supita, Julian Macasilhig, Isidro Saril, Eñego Abello, Rolando Aba, Rudy Bardeñas, Aurelio Patrimonio, Romeo Patrimonio, Edgardo Padilla and Arturo Padilla.

Teves claimed that he is the "absolute owner" of the property after his brother conveyed it to him on Oct. 3, 1988 through a Memorandum of Agreement. He also said that Ariston Teves does not have the authority to offer the lot for sale to the government under the CARP.

The congressman also said no payment has been made for the land and no price was offered for it.

Teves and his co-petitioners also asked the Darab to order a review of the decision putting the land under CARP to comply "faithfully . . . with all the requirements and procedures mandated by law."

GUIJO DUENAS

INDEPENDENT TRADE

Boys take out small Philippine flags to sell on streets of Jaro, Iloilo City hoping to earn income from the celebration of Independence Day.

Feud between DAR exec, NGOs hounding agrarian reform plan in Negros

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—"Quit Now!"

Two non-government organizations assisting in the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in the country have called on an official of the DAR Regional Adjudication Board (Darab) to retire, saying this would help speed up the implementation of CARP.

The two NGOs called on Arnold Arrieta, agrarian reform adjudicator, to step down.

The Philippine Network of Rural Development Institutes (PhilNet-RDI Inc.) and the Kowalisyon ng mga Organisadong Maralitang Mamamayan sa Kanayunan ng Kabisayaan Inc. (Komasaka) made the challenge after Arrieta asked Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza to investigate alleged irregularities in the implementation of CARP throughout the country.

Arrieta made the call after reporting that irregularities are hounding the program in Negros Oriental.

One case he cited was that of the 2,500-hectare Montenegro Estate in the hinterlands of Bayawan, which was awarded to farmers living in the coastal barangay of Cambuilao in Bais City.

Record defended

The PhilNet-RDI also defended its record following Arrieta's comment that their group was "out to corner the foreign funding for the project."

The PhilNet, in a statement, admitted that while funding is important, any institution would not deliberately fund a non-government organization that has no credible track record in the implementation of projects for the development of rural areas.

The Philnet, they said, serves a number of poor rural families in Cebu, Panay, Bohol, Ormoc and Negros. The statement said the group assisted in the implementation of the CARP and facilitated support services, trainings, livelihood projects and rural infrastructure development to help augment farmers' incomes.

The Komasaka also called on Braganza to investigate Arrieta for being involved in an alleged land valuation-fixing syndicate called the "Negros Mafia" and for his alleged "hasty" decision to evict farmers from an estate in Lamintak, Medellin, Cebu.

No retirement

When contacted for comment, Arrieta said he is not anymore inclined to retire as he is seeing something positive in the call for an investigation of CARP irregularities in Negros Oriental.

On his being a part of an alleged group called the "Negros Mafia," Arrieta said the so-called list of members of the mafia was made by the same people who are accusing him of over-valuing land costs.

He said his critics can check the records. "As far as the valuation cases that I handled (are concerned), the landowners were even complaining because my valuation was less than P50,000—that is relatively too low—prompting many landowners to resort to the Special Agrarian Court."

No bias

He also denied charges that he is biased against NGOs. "I only deal on a case on its merits. The law must be applied equally regardless of who they are."

The CARP will mark its 14th anniversary on June 15.

The program is under fire from both landlords and landless farmers.

The landlords are opposing CARP for various reasons, among them their fear that the pieces of property that would be taken for CARP would lose their productivity once they were partitioned for land reform.

Groups of farmers, especially those identified with the Left, are attacking the program for failing to speed up the distribution of farms to the landless.

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Cops arrest suspect in kidnap-slaying of half-brother of actor Robin Padilla

SAN MATEO, Isabela—Police on Thursday arrested one of the five suspects in the March 8 kidnap-slaying of Rodolfo "Gino" Padilla, the half-brother of actor Robin Padilla.

Senior Supt. Nelson Nario, Isabela police director, identified the suspect as Cesar Mercado, 50, of Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija.

Mercado was arrested in Barangay Daramuangan Norte here along with a companion, Eddie Sumaling, who was wanted by the police for robbery-holdup cases in the province.

Nario said Mercado, whom the police identified as a leader of a robbery-holdup gang, and three of his men were responsible for several robbery-holdup cases in the towns of Ramon, San Mateo, Cabatuan, Luna and Aurora.

Mercado, police said, was convicted of robbery and rape charges in Nueva Ecija but had eluded arrest.

Nario said Mercado admitted his participation in the kidnap-slaying of Padilla during interrogation, but Nario did not give details of the suspect's actual role in the crime.

Nario said the police have conducted a week-long surveillance of Mercado's safehouse before he was arrested on Thursday.

Police said seven to eight men arrived in Padilla's farm in Barangay Bibiclat, Cuyapo on March 8 and took him. His caretaker, Sixto de Gracia, 71, was shot and killed when he tried to help Padilla.

Before leaving, the armed men burned Padilla's farmhouse, his Mitsubishi Lancer car and a mini-tractor all worth more than P1 million.

Padilla's bullet-riddled body was exhumed in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija on March 23. His belongings were identified by his live-in partner, Madonna Mendoza.

Police reports said the body was first found in a ravine at Barangay Cadaclan in Pantabangan and near the Pantabangan-Baler road on March 14.

Pantabangan officials ordered the decomposing body to be buried after it was not immediately identified and when nobody had claimed it. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Man who raped daughter gets 3 death sentences

MALOLOS, Bulacan—For raping his 15-year-old daughter three times in 1998, a 40-year-old house painter from Sta. Maria town was sentenced by a local judge to suffer three death sentences on Friday.

Judge Rogelio Gonzales of the regional trial court branch 21 here said the accused raped his daughter in their house in Sta. Maria once in April and twice in May 1998 when the girl was 11.

The girl told the court that her father raped her while she was sleeping with her three siblings in their house. The girl and her siblings were left to the care of their father after the father's separation with the children's mother.

In his eight-page decision, Gonzales set aside the claim of the accused that it was his estranged wife who was behind the filing of the case against him.

The accused said the children's mother forced his daughter to file the charges to ruin his reputation and take custody of their four children.

Gonzales defended his decision, saying "a man who rapes his own daughter violates not only her purity and her trust but also the mores of his society, which he has scornfully defied." ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

NPAs accused of illegal logging

CATEEL, Davao Oriental—Starving in the jungle due to diminishing mass support, New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas in the province have resorted to illegal logging "just to survive," a local environmentalist group here said.

Edgardo Ricky Arisola, leader of the Cateel Bantay Kalikasan, a non-government forest protection group based here, told the INQUIRER that the alleged involvement of the communist rebels in the illegal logging trade here has made their task even harder.

"It's very hard now as we are fighting not only the traditional illegal logging operators like politicians but also the heavily armed communist rebels," Arisola, who was recently appointed as deputy environment and natural resources officer by DENR regional executive director Jeremias Dolino, said.

"The communist rebels of today are far different compared to their counterparts 20 years ago as they have become less ideological. Before, they used to fight the illegal logging operators, but now they have become one of them," Arisola added.

But the rebel group's spokesperson denied that they were into illegal logging. ***Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

GMA plans to turn RP into retirement haven

BAGUIO CITY—Here's a new strategy to get tourist dollars: Why not turn the islands into the world's only retirement home?

This opportunity surfaced during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to Japan last month, when she discussed a bilateral strategy involving the Philippines' nurses and caregivers, said Renato Diaz, presidential assistant for north Luzon.

Diaz said Japan's aging population requires more nurses, prompting Japanese officials to offer to take in the country's nurses and caregivers.

The Philippines supplies up to 80 percent of the nursing requirements of countries like the United States, the United Kingdom and parts of Europe.

Overseas Filipino workers sent to Asian and European countries have been targeting care-giving employment, which had been growing each year, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

But Diaz, in press conference here on Friday, said Ms Macapagal turned the offer around by inviting the aging and moneyed Japanese instead to the Philippines.

Diaz had been promoting the Department of Tourism plans to convert the old mining town of Itogon in Benguet into an alternative destination to the congested Baguio City.

He said sections of Baguio and its adjacent Benguet towns of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan and Tuba are ideal for a retirement village.

These towns represent a 1990 European metropolis plan for Baguio called BLIST (Baguio, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan and Tuba) and developed after the 1990 earthquake. The concerned town governments, however, have ignored the proposal.

The plan pushes for Baguio's decongestion, by developing Itogon and Tuba into new urban centers.

Diaz said BLIST responds to the new "opportunity" for a retirement haven. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI35° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 21° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 35° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 26°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/11/02

ROUNDUP

Girl raped, killed

HAGONOY, Bulacan—An eight-year-old girl in Barangay San Nicolas here was raped and killed by her neighbor last Saturday. Police found the body of April Lopez floating in a river in the village at 5:30 a.m. last Sunday. Lopez's head was smashed, reports said. Suspect Rodel Santos, 21, a fisherman and neighbor of the victim, was arrested in his house on Sunday after witnesses claimed that he owned a wristwatch worn by Lopez when her body was recovered. Police said the suspect gave his watch to Lopez to entice her to go with him. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

5 escapees collared

POLANGUI, Albay—Policemen collared five inmates a few hours after they overpowered a lone guard and bolted the Polangui Municipal jail on Thursday. Supt. Pedro Tango, Albay police director, identified the escapees and the cases they were awaiting trial for as Leopoldo Salcedo, rape; Alex Taduran, robbery and car theft; Dario Blawuiza, murder; Narciso Diabanico, illegal possession of bank notes and; Wilfredo Salalima, frustrated murder. A guard of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology was reportedly serving the prisoners their supper around 5:40 p.m. when he was overpowered by the escapees and was hurt in the process. *Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Fulfilled promises

NAGA CITY—The Presidential Management Staff said most of the projects promised by President Macapagal-Arroyo during her State of the Nation Address have been realized. Ricardo Saludo, PMS undersecretary, said at least 60,000 jobs were created in the agriculture sector in Bicol in 2001. Of the P96.95 million allocated for agriculture in the region, P90.34 million was used for the GMA rice and corn, high value crops and livestock programs. *Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cop killer nabbed

DARAGA, Albay—The police here arrested on Tuesday Wenceslao Magdaong Aranas who was wanted for the 1997 killing of police officer Elmer Bueno of the then 5th INP Field Force in Legazpi City. Insp. Genesius Molto, Daraga chief of police, said his men arrested the suspect in Barangay Cullat here on the strength of a warrant of arrest issued by the Regional Trial Court in Legazpi City for robbery with homicide. Molto said Magdaong had bolted the Caloocan City jail where he was detained for illegal possession of firearms. *Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Shabu pusher falls

MASBATE CITY—A team from the Masbate police office and the 5th Narcotics Group arrested Bertencio Docot Esmeralda, 25, of Talahib here while in the act of selling methamphetamine hydrochloride to a police agent. Supt. Ricardo Ver said they confiscated from Esmeralda's possession a sachet of shabu worth P500, and a marked P500 bill. Ver said they have filed a case against the suspect. *Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Wanted persons nabbed

LEGAZPI CITY—Two of the most wanted persons in the Bicol region have been arrested. Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol police director, identified them as Dante Estacion Maquinana, 25, of Barangay Cabungahan, Labo and Ruben Habitan, 24, of Jose Panganiban town, both in Camarines Norte. He said Maquinana was listed as the 13th most wanted person in Bicol for rape and acts of lasciviousness. Habitan is wanted for murder. *Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

More fake checks

MAUBAN, Quezon—Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Quezon police chief, warned the public against the proliferation of fake Government Service Insurance System checks. He said a moneychanger, whom he did not identify, complained that he cashed 15 of such checks worth P150,000. He said an unnamed suspect presenting himself as a public schoolteacher submitted at least 15 GSIS checks for encashment. When the victim tried to deposit the checks at the Land Bank of the Philippines, they were declared as fake. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Domingo, 91

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The first Cagayano archbishop, Teodulfo Domingo, died of natural causes on June 3 in Barangay San Jose in Baggao town. He was 91. A staunch environmentalist, Domingo led a crusade against illegal logging in the province. Domingo was installed as bishop by then Papal Nuncio Egidio Vagnozzi on May 9, 1957. Domingo was buried in a special niche in the St. Peter's Cathedral here after funeral rites on June 8. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Dejaresco Jr., 81

LAWYER-journalist Zoilo Dejaresco Jr., former chair and president of the Philippine Press Institute, died on Saturday at the Ramiro Hospital, Tagbilaran City. He was 81. Dejaresco Jr., was the publisher-editor of The Bohol Chronicle. He is survived by wife Rosario Pernia and nine children in-law, 23 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. His remains lie at the Dejaresco ancestral home in Tagbilaran City. Interment will be on June 15 at the Dampas Catholic Cemetery, Tagbilaran City.

Cult head followers turn heat on media

By Ma. Kristina Cassion and Franklin Caliguid
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DINAGAT ISLAND, Surigao del Norte—Members of the cult Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) here accused the media of biased reporting and unfair commentaries on the parricide case of their "supreme master" Ruben Ecleo Jr.

"The media, especially Bombo Radyo, have been maligning us. What they do against us is already too much," said Cristino Medallo, Dinagat Association of Barangay Chairs president and PBMA board member.

"We are only human, we also get hurt when our 'master' is being pre-judged as a criminal in their news reports and commentaries," he said.

Upon arrival at the San Jose Port, PBMA members repeatedly asked this reporter, including a local ABS-CBN team, if we were Bombo reporters from Cebu City. They complained that reporters from the said radio station repeatedly attacked their "master" in their programs, branding him as a criminal even as they have not gone to Dinagat to get their side.

PBMA board member Emmie de los Reyes said they are now wary of visiting media persons because of their experience with the said radio outfit.

But Erwin Dano, a Bombo Radyo reporter from Butuan City who took over the coverage for the radio station, defended his colleagues saying Bombo Radyo-Cebu was only just doing its job.

The PBMA officials also denied reports that tension was gripping the island with the impending arrest of Ruben Jr., who was accused of killing his wife Alona in Cebu early this year.

"Everything is peaceful here even right now. All visitors are welcome, even police authorities," said Jose de Guzman, Dinagat SK Federation Chair and PBMAI member.

Police sources, however, revealed that there was a build up of tension with the alleged convergence of armed PBMA members from different parts of the Caraga Region.

There were also reports that the White Eagle, allegedly the armed unit of the PBMA, is preparing to defend their "supreme master."

Medallo, however, denied the reports, saying that the White Eagle was a motorist club, of which he is a member, not an armed unit.

"We cannot do anything if the police will bombard the whole island and kill all of us just to get our 'master.' We can only pray for our safety," Medallo said.

Police authorities are now preparing men to enforce the arrest order of Ruben Jr. Two platoons of Army soldiers from the 20th IB in Agusan del Norte will reinforce the provincial police officers and members of the Regional Mobile Group. The reinforcement does not include two platoons from the Army's 402nd Brigade.

PBMA members, however, said they will defend their "supreme master" if the police would forcefully arrest Ruben Jr.

"I will definitely die for my master. Living here would be useless without our 'supremo,'" De Guzman said.

In Butuan City on Sunday, Surigao del Norte (1st district) Rep. Glenda Ecleo, the suspect's mother, appealed to the police to stop its operation to avert what she called a possible outbreak of violence.

"We are willing to surrender him, just give us more time, It's not that easy," Representative Ecleo, who is now facing a congressional inquiry sought by the Volunteers Against Crime (VAC) in Cebu for allegedly harboring a criminal and obstructing justice.

On Saturday, Sen. Robert Barbers had called on the local police, who tried but failed to arrest Ecleo at his mansion in San Jose town, to uphold the law and effect the arrest warrant against his political ally in the "interest of justice."

7 kidnap suspects plead innocent

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Seven Chinese nationals have pleaded innocent to charges of kidnapping the daughter of a Chinese Filipino businessman here in September last year.

"Not guilty" pleaded the seven Fookien-speaking Chinese through interpreter Teresita Ang-See during their arraignment on Friday.

They were charged with kidnapping Jackie Tiu, 28, on Sept. 28 near her family's house at Barangay Lingsat here.

She was kept for eight days by the suspects in several safehouses in Manila and Cavite before she was rescued unharmed in Pasay City, police said.

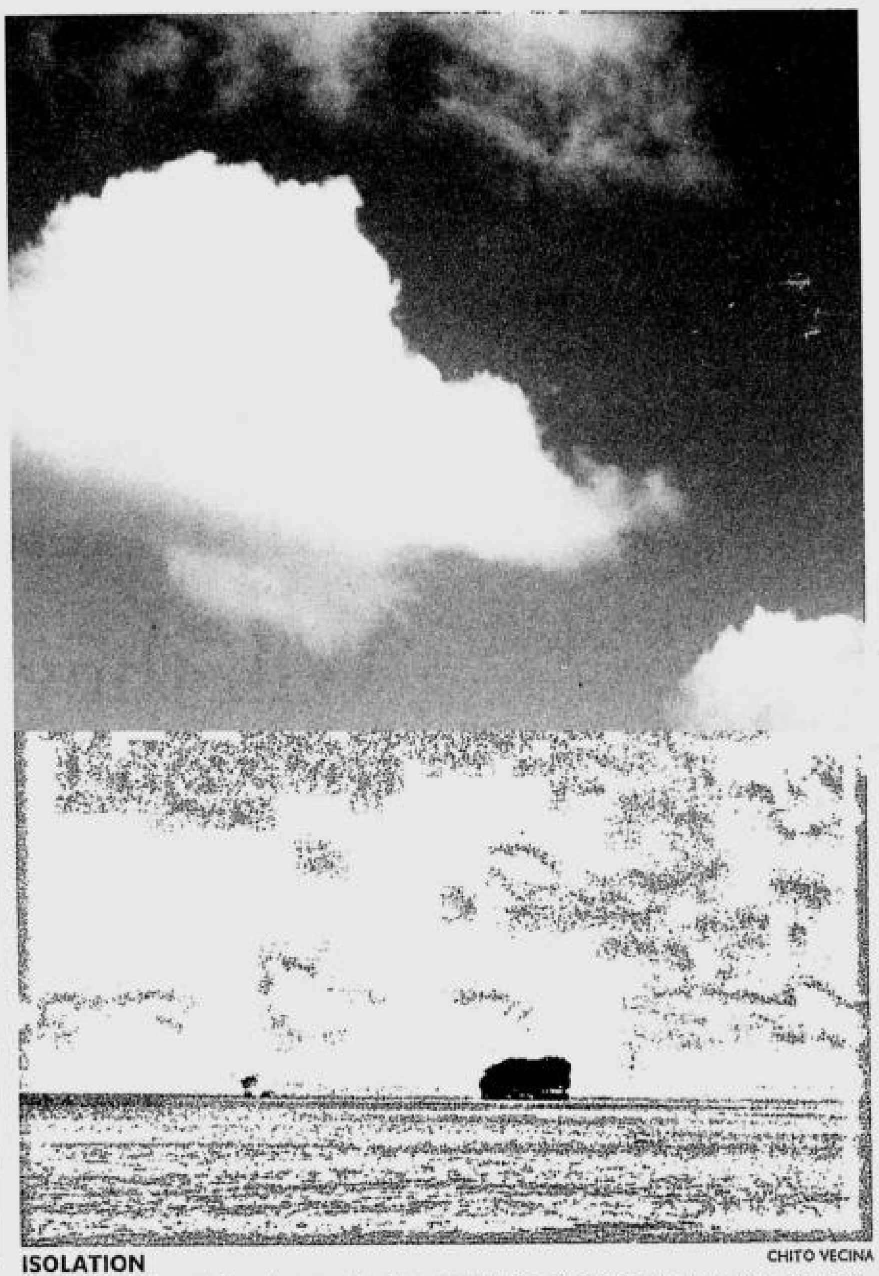
Her rescuers recovered the P10-million ransom money that her father, Rodolfo, owner of the Capital Lumber here, paid to her kidnappers.

The suspects were Zhang Du, Zhang Xi Wang, Xu You Kwang, Shi Jian Hui, Wu Chang, Lim Jiang Feng, and Shi Chun Qi. They are detained at the La Union provincial jail at Barangay Camansi here. An eighth suspect, Henry Ong, is at large.

Judge Antonio Carbonnel of the regional trial court here assigned Ang-See, an officer of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, as interpreter after the local Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce turned down her request to provide one.

Ang-See said the chamber members were scared to meddle in the case.

The suspects were represented by three Manila-based lawyers and a lawyer from the Public Attorneys' Office here. The pre-trial of the case was scheduled on July 19. ***Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***



ISOLATION CHITO VECINA
Isolation could sometimes be good for the preservation of natural wonders, like this small islet jutting out of the sea in Tubabao Island, Eastern Samar.

18 Quezon jail inmates mentally sick

LUCENA CITY—Of the 758 prisoners now detained at the congested Quezon provincial jail here, at least 18 male detainees have been found suffering from varying degrees of mental illness.

Quezon board member Dante Miguel Cadiz reported this in a privileged speech at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan session yesterday.

Cadiz also called on the provincial council to address the severe congestion at the provincial jail.

The provincial jail warden confirmed the report of Cadiz.

"The court's psychiatrist has declared the 18 detention prisoners as suffering from varying degrees of mental illness. But we can't do anything about it, except to lock them all in a common jail in Brigada Sais," retired constabulary Col. Antero Javier, the jail warden, told the INQUIRER.

Some of the sick prisoners have been treated for about six months at the National Mental Hospital, he said.

"The doctors at the mental hospital will tell us that the prisoner is well and there is only a need for us to continue the medication. But where will we get the required medicines when our budget is not even enough to cover the jail operation?" Javier asked.

He said sooner or later, the prisoners would again be sent back to the mental hospital for another treatment.

"Why can't they just confine the patient, anyway, they have all the necessary personnel and medicines?" Javier asked.

In a visit to the provincial jail, the INQUIRER spotted two of the "mentally sick" inmates in dirty clothes lying on the cemented floor while the rest of the prisoners lined up for their lunch ration of rice, *ginisang alamang* and boiled eggplants.

"We're lucky that not one of them hurts anybody here. But once they become rowdy, it's either we lock them inside the solitary cell or tie them in one corner of their cell," one of the jail ward leaders told the INQUIRER.

He said the jail is built for only 300 prisoners.

To address the congestion, the provincial council has approved the release of P2.5 million for the construction of a two-story jail annex. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Court to rule soon on bail of Pacificador

By Nestor Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

PACIFICADOR

SAN JOSE, Antique—The Antique Regional Trial Court is set to rule on the petition for bail of the accused in the 16-year case in connection with the murder of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier.

In a hearing held yesterday at the sala of Judge Rudy Castrojas of the Antique RTC Branch 12, the court resolved issues on markings of pieces of evidence that were presented by the prosecution panel on March 22.

The pieces of evidence included sworn statements of witnesses and other pieces of evidence that were presented to back up the prosecution's case against former Antique Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador and 16 others.

The accused are facing murder, frustrated murder and attempted murder charges for the killing of Javier and the wounding of several others on Feb. 11, 1986. They are detained at the provincial jail.

Both the prosecution and the defense panels said they hope for the early resolution of the petition for bail of the accused.

Pacificador had been charged with masterminding the murder.

"As soon as Judge Castrojas . . . rules on the formal offer of exhibits, we will submit our memorandum," said lawyer Avelino Javellana, who is representing himself as one of the accused.

"We hope that the court will rule on the petition for bail before the end of the year," said private prosecutor Aurelio Trampe.

Castrojas ordered the holding of yesterday's hearing on May 30 after several pieces of evidence cited by the prosecution were not found or were marked differently in the court records.

The records so far reached nine volumes of basic court records and 28 volumes of stenographic notes.

Both parties have been ordered by the court to file their respective memorandums within 15 days after the court has ruled on the defense panel's petition for bail.

Under court rules, all pieces of evidence presented in the petition for bail will automatically be admitted in the trial of the murder case itself.

Pacificador, a close ally of then President Ferdinand Marcos and a former deputy minister for public works and highways, was tagged as the mastermind of the killing of Javier, a staunch anti-Marcos politician in Antique at that time.

Aside from Pacificador, also charged were Pacificador's son Rodolfo, lawyer Avelino Javellana, Eduardo "Boy Muslim" Iran, Oscar Tiauson, Jimmy Punzalan, former Philippine Constabulary Capt. John Paloy, Vicente Vegafria, Ramon Hortillano, Henry Salaver, Eleazar Idemne, Rolando Bernardino, Jose Seguerra, Henry Seguerra and three unidentified persons known only as alias Akay, Nonoy, Totong and Dolfo.

Church faces more protest in Vizcaya over priest

By Ben Moses Ebreo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGABAG, Nueva Vizcaya—Residents here have vowed to hold a series of protest rallies and vigils despite the appeal and decision of Bishop Ramon Villena of the Diocese of Bayombong and Quirino to retain a parish priest here.

On Sunday, Villena said he would not transfer Msgr. Vicente Emilio Tugadi, parish priest of St. Jerome's Parish here who was the subject of complaints from some parishioners.

Members of the Alliance of Christian Crusaders against Oppression, Repression of Rights and Dishonesty in the Church (Accorrd) have placed newly painted placards outside the parish church in preparation for more rallies against Tugadi.

"We will not stop until Monsignor Tugadi leaves town. We will elevate our complaint to higher authorities of the Catholic faith," said Tom Gumiran, 42, Accorrd spokesperson, told the INQUIRER.

In a statement, Accorrd members said they expected Villena's decision on the controversy.

"We were not (surprised) by such predictable action by the bishop. We believe that he knows and fears so much that transferring Monsignor Tugadi from the parish would mean that he is guilty as charged and therefore, the Catholic Church as a religious institution would be put in a bad light," the group said.

In a statement on Sunday, Villena said he decided to retain Tugadi after a study of the Accorrd petition and Tugadi's written reply to the accusations and after meeting his consultants.

"I did not see any serious violation of the laws of the church or any law of the country by Monsignor Tugadi. To my mind, he satisfactorily answered the accusations hurled at him," Villena said.

Villena also apologized to parishioners over the controversy.

"I would like to apologize for the hurt we have caused you. Forgive our shortcomings and give us the chance to renew ourselves," he said.

The bishop, in a press conference Sunday, expressed his deep concern on the security of Tugadi. Villena said he would ask the police to guard Tugadi's parish.

"This was one of the concerns that we discussed. As a father, we are concerned about his security. We do not know what will happen. There might be some groups that would harm him," he told reporters here.

"I am primarily concerned about the dignity and innocence of my priest and division among the Catholic faithful in Bagabag. I want to restore unity and the dignity of my priest," he said.

A protest rally on Monday prompted Tugadi to leave the parish, according to sources here. Tugadi was supposed to meet 60 visiting priests from Cabanatuan City who came here to express their support for him, the sources said.

Additional policemen had been sent to the town to maintain peace and order.

Mayor Victor Castillo said he received Villena's letter, including his decision to retain Tugadi as parish priest.

Friends, relatives celebrate life of Martin Burnham

WASHINGTON—Friends and relatives of Martin Burnham gathered at a Kansas church Sunday to celebrate the life of the American missionary killed last week in the Philippine military's failed effort to capture top leaders of the Abu Sayyaf.

At Rose Hill Bible Church near Wichita, Kansas, the dead man's uncle Ralph Burnham said he had hoped through his missionary work to do good.

"He was willing to go," Ralph Burnham told the congregation, his voice breaking. "He loved the Lord."

Said Pastor Robert Varner at the same service: "He was faithfully doing God's will to the very end."

The congregation sang a series of joyful hymns to celebrate Burnham's life. Burnham's brother Doug also took part in the service at the church where the Burnham family has worshipped since it was founded in the early 1950s.

Relatives said Burnham would be buried Friday, at a service for family members and friends.

They also said a memorial service earlier Friday would be open to the public and the media.

At the conclusion of Sunday's service, Doug Burnham expressed the hope that the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers would be brought to justice.

"Kidnapping is a criminal act," he said.

Doug Burnham also said Martin's widow, Gracia, was eager to be reunited with her three children. Gracia left the Philippines on a flight for the United States and was expected to arrive late Monday.

"She has some grieving to do," he said. "It's going to take some time. She's going to have to deal with her loss" and her protracted time in captivity. *AFP*

'Part of my heart will always stay'

From page A1

who had both flown in from the United States.

US Embassy spokesperson Frank Jenista, who, with US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, was among those who saw Gracia off, said she had spoken about Yap's courage during their yearlong ordeal.

"She wanted to see the family of Ediborah after she was rescued," Jenista told reporters at the Naia lounge for dignitaries. "She told the children of Ediborah, 'If you have the courage of your mother, you will go a long way.'"

Criminals

Gracia reserved harsh words for the bandits, who, she said, "repeatedly lied" to her and her fellow hostages.

"They are not men of honor and they should be treated like ordinary criminals. We support all efforts of the government in bringing these men to justice," she said.

Wearing a bright red shirt and neatly coifed, Gracia beamed when she entered the lounge where a crowd of reporters had waited for hours for her first public appearance since her dramatic rescue.

The cheerful facade cracked when she pulled out a piece of paper and read her statement.

But her emotion masks an inner strength, Scott Ross, a spokesperson for the Florida-based organization that sponsored the Burnhams and other missionaries around the world, told Reuters in the United States.

"She is upbeat, she really believes that God is in control, and that for whatever reason, it was meant to be," said Ross.

Gracia avoided reference to how Martin died.

Ricciardone would not say whether bullets fired by the bandits or by Philippine forces killed the missionary. He said that issue was irrelevant because the bandits were ultimately responsible for the death of a man who should not have been held so long..

The ambassador said Washington had no plans to do a formal investigation on whether the rescue mission was executed properly.

"No one should try to suggest this was bungled or botched in any way," Ricciardone said, adding that the mission could not have been a textbook operation because it took place in dense jungle and pouring rain.

The body of Martin, who was 42, has been flown to a US military base in Japan and will be flown to the United States in "a few days," Ricciardone said.

Reunion

Gracia said she was returning to the United States "to rejoin my children and to put my life back together."

"Part of my heart will always stay with the Filipino people," she added.

The children—Jeff, 15; Mindy, 12; and Zach, 11—have been in the care of Martin's parents in Kansas but regularly visit with Gracia's parents.

"The three children are very excited to see her," Ross said.

The Burnhams, both from Wichita, Kansas, were abducted from a Palawan resort on May 27 last year and held for a year and 11 days in the Philippines' longest hostage saga involving foreigners.

They were married for 19 years.

Fragmentary accounts from family indicated that Gracia might have been saved when Martin fell over her after he was shot, shielding her from further gunfire.

"She thought she lay there for about 20 minutes," her sister Mary Jones said in an interview on Manila television.

"She said that after that 20 minutes, he just became very heavy. She said that it was very peaceful and she was glad that she was able to be with him when it happened," Jones said.

Ricciardone said that during debriefings since her rescue, Gracia gave US and Philippine officials new information about Abu Sayyaf personalities and how the group worked.

The debriefing process will continue after she had time to recover, he said.

Prolonged presence

Afable appeared certain of the prolonged stay of US troops in the country.

"I guess as long as the Abu Sayyaf is there, the Americans will have an interest in continuing the training exercises," he said.

Under the Balikatan 02-1 joint military exercise, US forces are training, advising and assisting Filipino soldiers in fighting the Abu Sayyaf.

Based on admissions by government officials themselves, the US military is also providing tactical intelligence and participating in combat planning.

"American foreign policy is really to wipe out terrorism wherever it is in the world. We are part of that coalition," Afable said, referring to the US-led anti-terrorism coalition formed after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Afable reiterated President Macapagal-Arroyo's previous statement that there would be more joint exercises after Balikatan 02-1 ends on July 31.

"Under the present conditions, we are confident that this series will continue . . . in various and different forms under the Visiting Forces Agreement, the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Military Assistance Pact," he said.

He stressed that the Philippines had a "strategic relationship with America in fighting and ending terrorism in this part of the world."

Afable also said the President did not give the military a specific deadline to finish off the Abu Sayyaf now that the hostage crisis had ended.

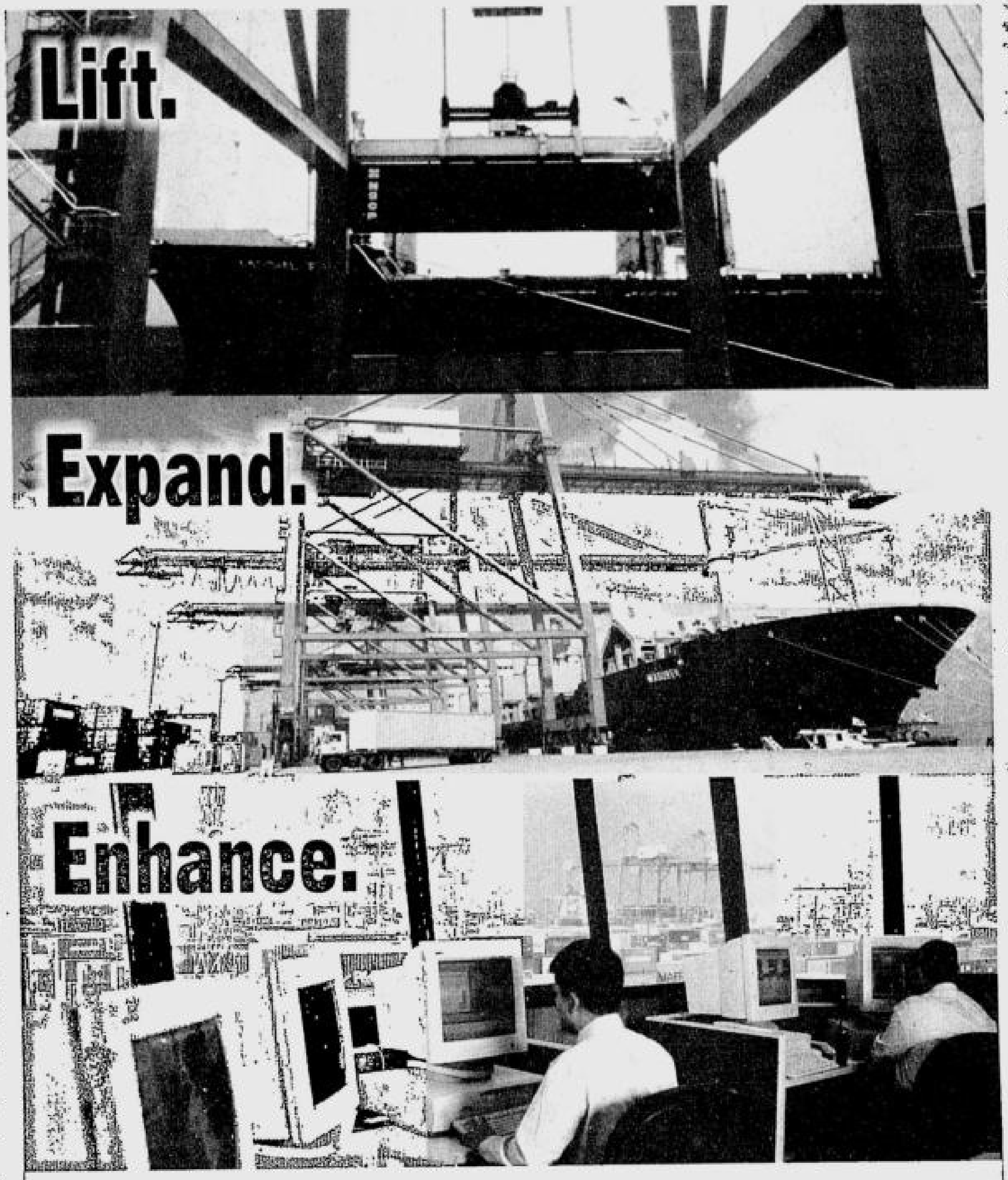
"But the sense of urgency that has been consistently expressed by the President is very deep," he said. "The Armed Forces is aware of the sense of urgency and they are now acting to neutralize the Abu Sayyaf at the earlier possible time."

The US government has linked Abu Sayyaf to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

But Gracia Burnham told officials that she did not see any foreigners working with her captors, The Associated Press said.

Jenista also quoted Gracia as saying that the campaign to snuff out the bandit group should continue.

When the Burnhams were kidnapped, about 100 bandits were in the group that held them, but during the past year, it dwindled to 14 men with 10 firearms, Jenista quoted Gracia as saying. ***With reports from Reuters, AP***



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Gov't agency reveals landowners' scheme to skirt CARP law

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE MODE through which former rebel leader Bernabe Buscayno was alleged to have amassed land under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) has become the favored strategy of landowners in skirting the acquisition of "CARP-able land."

This was among the findings of the Audit Management and Investigation Committee of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (AMIC-PARC).

The committee noted the change in strategy by landlords as early as 1996. From legal and extra-legal maneuvers, they shifted to the Voluntary Land Transfer/Direct Payment Scheme (VLT/DPS).

In this option, owners of "CARP-able" land parcels select the beneficiaries who will pay directly to them. The Department of Agrarian Reform is left out of the deal, except in matters involving documentation fees, transfer taxes, surveys and titling expenses.

The private Peace Foundation and the Partnership for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Services (PARDDS) said the VLT/DPS scheme benefited mostly "preferred" beneficiaries, meaning children and relatives of landlords, as discovered by the AMIC-PARC.

Not tillers

The Malacañang agency also found that some beneficiaries did not till the land themselves and were not even living or working in the area.

The Peace Foundation and the PARDDS lamented that despite these loopholes and irregularities, Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza has adopted the VLT/DPS as a DAR strategy in land distribution under CARP.

"Minors and relatives living outside the farms were surreptitiously made beneficiaries of land reform. Instead of heeding the AMIC-PARC, though, the DAR leadership has declared VLT as the main strategy of land redistribution," said Dong Calmala of the Peace Foundation.

"Is this stupidity or willful sidestepping of social justice?" Calmala asked.

Braganza, in an INQUIRER report early this year, said he had ordered local DAR officials to seek "alternative modes" of land distribution other than those that require the government to pay for the CARP land.

He cited the limited budget approved by Congress for land acquisition.

One of the options mentioned by Braganza was the "direct payment scheme," in which farmer-beneficiaries enter directly into purchase agreements with landowners.

Lopsided

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas has lambasted Braganza's new policy directions, saying the VLT/DPS would further result in land dispossession and force farmers to enter into lopsided purchase agreements with owners.

The report of the AMIC-PARC has confirmed these fears.

It said that while some towns favored the VLT mode, "some of the reported distributions of land were transmissions of land through inheritance."

"Some violations of the proper scope of the program were discovered—as land being awarded to non-qualified persons, awarding of more than the legal three hectares, awarding of land to the landowners' minor children, favoritism of land, etc.," said the AMIC-PARC report.

It cited a case in Alaminos, Pangasinan, where a Grade 6 pupil was made a recipient of a Certificate of Land Ownership Award (Cloa) by his father through the VLT/DPS.

Based on AMIC-PARC reports over the years, Ilocos, Braganza's home region, has become the country's "top VLT processor." The region also has one of the highest numbers of VLT cases.

In Agno, Pangasinan, 95 percent of the land acquisition and distribution accomplishments of the municipal agrarian reform officer (Maro) were through the VLT/DPS and the recipients of the collective Cloas were mostly preferred beneficiaries.

The AMIC-PARC also discovered several cases in which beneficiaries identified in the VLT/DPS transactions did not know that they have been named such by a landowner who was a stranger to them.

They also did not know where the land is situated, the report said. They also were not willing to till the land.

"This is a type that represents perhaps the outright manipulative category of the VLT where landlords might have coerced poor people to agree to his scheme, or scam, or where the landlord in connivance with corrupt local DAR officials simply listed people without the latter knowing anything about such transaction," Calmala explained.

In Iligan City, the AMIC-PARC was able to interview 26 beneficiaries of VLT transactions who "were not actually tilling the lands awarded to them."

Non-farmers

The beneficiaries included a drugstore manager, a printing press manager, nine students, and two persons who had migrated to the United States before the land distribution.

In Agusan del Sur, where almost half of the reported output in the distribution of private land was through the VLT, the AMIC-PARC discovered a case where the DAR officer for Esperanza town allowed the award of four VLT landholdings to six absentee and non-farmer applicants.

Of the awardees, two were working in Manila and two in Bohol, even before the VLT transaction. One was an employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Sarangani and one had been working abroad for two years before the deal.

DENNIS SABANGAN

MILITANT farmers and fisherfolk denounce the alleged failure of the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program during a rally in front of Camp Aguinaldo. The program entered its 15th year of implementation on Monday.

'Biggest' land distribution . . .

From page A1

"Seven hectares," she said of that province's distributed land last year. On the two big screens installed at the convention hall, she was seen suppressing her laughter with a handkerchief.

The mention of Siquijor and Camiguin, which distributed 8 hectares and 20 hectares, respectively, also drew chuckles.

The President, however, defended the "modest" CARP coverage in the two provinces because they were small islands. She said Lubao, her hometown in Pampanga, was bigger than the two.

Overall, she took pride that the DAR, during her first year in office, distributed 104,261 hectares of agricultural land to 72,188 beneficiaries.

This, she emphasized, surpassed the 100,000 hectares annual target she set during her first State of the Nation Address in Congress last year.

Negros Occidental, Sultan Kudarat and Leyte topped the provinces with the most number of distributed land.

The administration's accomplishment last year brought to 3.2 million hectares the total "CARP-ed" area since 1972. The program targets to give away 4.29 million ha of private farmland.

"*Naka*-boundary *na kayo* (You have reached your targets)," Ms Macapagal told the DAR field personnel, referring to their good performance. "This is the biggest distribution in just a year. The biggest in history," she said.

Most taxi and jeepney drivers daily pay a fixed amount called "boundary" to the owner of the vehicle for its use.

Outside the gates of Clark, about 4,000 farmers from all over the country held separate rallies to condemn the CARP and its implementation.

The protesters from the delegation of the Pambansang Katipunan ng Malayang Magbubukid sparked tensions when they stormed the gates and dismantled the barbed-wire fences.

More than 50 policemen carrying truncheons and shields kept the protesters from reaching the main gate.

Pablo Rosales, PKMM chair, called the CARP "bankrupt" and full of loopholes, referring to the failure of the program to distribute land to farmers, even 14 years after the CARP law was passed in 1988.

"Ms Macapagal and the DAR can brag all they want about their accomplishments but farmers know that these figures of accomplished land distribution are only bubbles of illusion, ready to pop anytime," Rosales said.

The PKMM scattered palay husks at the gates and burned copies of Certificates of Land Ownership Awards and Emancipation Patents.

Jose Rodito Angeles, national spokesperson of the Task Force Mapalad, urged Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza to "stop making *pogi* points" for the 2004 elections.

In a statement, Angeles said Braganza should give priority to the distribution of private agricultural land.

Braganza, according to Angeles, has been spending much of his time in provincial sorties than on DAR-related work.

But Braganza said the detractors of CARP should go to Congress if they want revisions in the program and its implementation.

The CARP, he explained, is a "highly ideological, highly political (program)."

"(But) our bible is the CARP and we will implement it according to its spirit," he said.

Braganza said the DAR needs at least P100 billion to acquire a million hectares of private agricultural lands until 2008.

But funds are short, with the department having only P5 billion to implement the CARP this year.

Until 2004, the DAR intends to distribute 500,000 hectares of private land, he said.

Ms Macapagal admitted that the DAR has not asked additional funding from the general appropriation funds.

The DAR, she said, has largely relied on official development assistance from Belgium, Israel and other donor countries.

These, however, do not fund the government's land acquisition but support services for 1,416 agrarian reform communities throughout the country.

"I would like to congratulate you. I would like to thank our official development assistance partners because they helped us meet these targets without getting additional budget," the President told the DAR personnel.

She said agricultural modernization has been one of the four components of her administration's fight against poverty.

This can only be possible through land reform, she said.

"I've said that without equity and modernization, we will never win the struggle against poverty in our countryside," she said.

She said she was continuing the legacy of her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, who she said initiated land reform. ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

'Lapses' of agencies distort CARP impact

From page A1

they have no complaints about how the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, which marked its 14th anniversary yesterday, has been implemented in their villages.

But when pressed by the INQUIRER to show the affidavits, Santiago said: "We will release the affidavits when the time calls for it."

Santiago also refused to name the satisfied farmers.

No DAR clearance

A review of the transfer certificates of title (TCTs) showed consistent procedural lapses on the part of the DAR and the register of deeds (ROD). The lapses give the lie to the DAR's mandate to monitor land ownership and transfer.

DAR technician Erlinda Lundang admitted that the purchase of the land in Balanti in 1990 by the People's Livelihood Foundation Inc.—which Buscayno founded—never had a DAR clearance.

The deeds of sale between original owner Roman De Jesus and buyer Romeo Carriedo in 1986, and between Carriedo and Buscayno on behalf of the PLFI in 1990, were also not registered. The ROD thus failed to notify the DAR of the 1990 transaction. (CARP requires the ROD to inform the DAR within 30 days of any transaction on lands that are in excess of five hectares.)

But Bienvenido Ildefonso, municipal agrarian reform officer, must have known of the Carriedo-Buscayno deed of sale. He legitimized the transaction by taking custody of the original copy but, as events later showed, took no action to stop the sale in the interests of the CARP and the original tenants—Mendoza included.

But the ROD did issue a new TCT to a 12-hectare parcel of land, part of which went to the Buscaynos, despite a 24-year delay in the registration of a supposed acquisition by Carriedo in 1977 and despite a notice of *lis pendens* (meaning the land was the subject of a pending case in court).

BUSCAYNO: Hounded by controversy.

Also, the EPs that the DAR issued to Buscayno, his son and his brother in 1999 and whose titles were generated through a certification from provincial DAR chief Filomeno Inocencio are not even in the department's list of registered holders.

The Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (Cloas) for the 31.7 hectares of land that were named mostly after Buscayno's relatives were in the DAR's list of registered holders in Armenia. But the ROD has not certified the Cloas, because the mother titles have been "missing" since the properties were placed under the CARP in 1998.

An employee at the ROD showed the INQUIRER the original copies of the Cloas, an indication that these were not yet distributed to the beneficiaries.

Suspicious

The 7-hectare lot that Mendoza is contesting forms part of the 12-hectare property that the ROD granted a new TCT to in spite of a pending case.

Suspicious circumstances surround the transfer of these seven hectares.

First, these were distributed under the Marcos land reform program (Presidential Decree 27) which covers rice and corn land.

Balanti's Barangay Agrarian Reform Council (BARC) chair Pacifico Bautista certified that the lands were not cultivated to those crops. Africano Singian, who was displaced although he obtained a certificate of land transfer for that same land in 1974, said he had been planting palay and sugarcane there since the 1950s.

Second, the original landowner, Roman de Jesus, who died in 1979, executed a deed of transfer to the Buscaynos in 1999.

Third, the Buscaynos never "personally cultivated" the land, which is one of the conditions required in the deed. The deed required them to pay lease rentals beginning in 1973, which would comprise the full payment for the land.

Buscayno said it was the DAR that prepared the fraudulent deed of transfer. Ildefonso, the municipal agrarian reform officer, said Mario de Jesus, the landowner's son and sole heir, signed his dead father's name to facilitate the redistribution of the land to the Buscaynos. He added that he had no way of knowing if indeed it was Roman who signed the documents in his presence.

The former rebel argued his signature was falsified.

But then, the Buscaynos could never have "personally cultivated" the land, because at that time Buscayno was leading the NPA full-time, Red was a toddler, and Juanito did not exist. (Two of Buscayno's close relatives said they do not know Juanito but do know of a Juan among the eight Buscayno siblings.)

In 1976, the owner declared the entire 12 hectares "non-tenanted."

Bautista and BARC chair Eutiquiano Tabios of Armenia said Buscayno did not work on any land in the villages before 1990.

A master list of farmers prepared by the then Ministry of Agrarian Reform in 1980 also did not include any of the Buscaynos—though Mendoza and Singian were listed.

Nevertheless, Ildefonso attested to a certification by De Jesus that the Buscaynos actually tilled the land and that they had completed the payments (the amount of which was never specified).

Despite all these, the DAR went ahead and issued the Buscaynos their emancipation patents with remarkable haste.

The EPs were given on Sept. 10, 1999. But the deed of transfer, which is an important basis of verification, was signed a month later or on Oct. 5.

Mendoza, in a petition before the Darab, claimed that this "erroneous issuance" was enough basis to have the EPs canceled.

Now with failing eyesight, Mendoza is joined by his entire family in his uphill fight: his wife Francisca, his son Fernando, a DAR employee, and six other children who managed to finish schooling through their parent's toil on land they've tilled for over half a century but still do not own.

Accountability

Mendoza has sued Teofilo Inocencio, Tarlac provincial agrarian reform officer and Macario Rigor, CARP officer for operations, for incompetence before the Office of the Ombudsman. But Inocencio and Rigor are skirting accountability, heaping all the blame on Ildefonso, court documents showed.

Asked to confirm the displacements of tenants and if Buscayno had used the CARP to preserve the properties for his organizations, Inocencio said these could be "best answered" at the level of Ildefonso.

"I can't tell. I should see and go with the records," he added, indicating that he has not reviewed the agrarian dispute that has also earned him an administrative case with the Office of the Ombudsman.

Despite the case, Inocencio has been promoted to DAR assistant director in Central Luzon.

Inocencio also defended Buscayno.

"I can't believe he will grab land. He was from the farmers. Even assuming he has taken a 360-degree turn, he will retain certain principles. But I do hope he won't become one," Inocencio says.

President to stay overnight in Basilan

From page A1

Ediborah," acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said of the President.

It will be the first time for the President to sleep over in Basilan.

Yap, a nurse, was killed along with American hostage Martin Burnham during an encounter between Scout Rangers and Abu Sayyaf bandits on June 7 in the jungles of Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte. Of the three hostages, only Gracia Burnham survived.

Contrary to earlier reports, the Scout Rangers who figured in the firefight were not trained by American soldiers.

"We were not trained by US troops. All of us who were deployed (in Sirawai) did not receive US training," said Cpl. Alvin Madatu, one of the seven wounded Scout Rangers.

They said it was their Rangers' training that helped them survive the encounter.

"We owe it to our Rangers' course. We were deployed in Sirawai on May 27. We were supposed to take up the Medical Survival Training Course on May 29," Cpl. Carlito San Pablo told the INQUIRER.

Three days after the encounter, the Department of National Defense still does not know how Martin Burnham and Yap were killed, but US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone called the rescue "a fantastic operation." National Security Adviser Roilo Golez described it as "a strategic success."

No report

Retired Maj. Gen. Melchor Rosales, newly designated spokesperson for the operation against the bandits, said the Southern Command had not submitted a report on the matter.

Asked when the report would be submitted, Rosales said: "We are still awaiting that at the moment."

He pointed out that the main unit deployed in Zamboanga was Task Force Comet and that it was still involved in pursuit operations.

"We have talked with the commander of the Southern Command, General Carolina, and he wants to submit that report to headquarters and eventually to the (defense) secretary," Rosales said.

The report is usually filed after the operation.

Despite the deaths of two hostages, US and Philippine officials continue to praise the rescue operation.

Great success

"Even with the standard of military operations in other parts of the world, it was a fantastic operation. It was a great success," Ricciardone told reporters.

He said the operation caused the Burnham children in Kansas to be reunited with their mother.

Ricciardone brushed aside insinuations that Martin and Yap might have been killed by gunfire from Filipino soldiers.

"There is no moral ambiguity here. There are heroes and there are criminals. In this case, the heroes are the hostages . . . and the soldiers," the ambassador said.

"(Whether or not the gunfire that killed them were from the military) hardly matters. It is clear to us that the Abu Sayyaf group killed Martin Burnham. Period," he added.

Frank Jenista, US Embassy spokesperson, told reporters that the embassy was not interested in determining whether Burnham was killed by the Abu Sayyaf or by friendly fire.

No second-guessing

"There is no second-guessing here. It was set in a jungle. There was a pouring rain . . . It's the Abu Sayyaf's fault," Jenista said.

He noted that Gracia had informed US officials that the number of Abu Sayyaf members had greatly diminished.

"She said that when they were kidnapped (on May 27, 2001), there were around 100 Abu Sayyaf members. Then there were 30, and then 60, and then 40, and then 20. (In the last operation), they were down to just 14," Jenista said.

"I don't see how anybody could call that a failure," he said.

Golez, for his part, said that the rescue attempt was a "a strategic success" for two reasons.

"One, you have to find the enemy. And two, you have to engage them in combat," Golez said. "In this case, one can see that the soldiers took a necessary risk," he said.

In combat, Golez said "the pursuit for perfection can't prevent one from being good."

In an interview over radio station dzMM, Golez said Philippine and US authorities were aware of the risks involved in rescuing the Burnhams and Yap.

"That's what we call the dare-to-win spirit," Golez said. "If we allow ourselves to be constrained by the fear of failure, then we can't do anything."

In Malacañang, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said the government found the results of the rescue operation "satisfactory."

But apparently betraying the uneasiness of defending the outcome of the operations, Afable said: "I think we should leave this issue behind."

"We just hope that our people will unite behind the Armed Forces," Afable said.

He asserted though that the encounter was something the people could "be proud of" before the world.

Abu Sayyaf casualties

The bodies of Abu Sayyaf members who were killed in the June 7 encounter in Sirawai have been claimed by their relatives a day after they were brought to the morgue in Camp Enrile in Malagutay in Zamboanga City.

Col. Alexander Yapching, Task Force Zambonaga chief, said the bodies were claimed even as their identities were still being verified.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southcom chief, said one of those killed had been identified as Abu Lukman.

Ms Macapagal will leave for Zamboanga City at 8:25 a.m. and conduct a command conference with the Armed Forces' Southern Command. She will later visit wounded soldiers at the Southcom hospital.

She will proceed to Lamitan, Basilan, the hometown of Yap, at noon. Upon arrival, she will preside over a joint meeting of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Regional Economic Planning and Development Board and the Regional Peace and Order Council at the Claret High School.

After the meeting, she will visit the Lamitan parish church, scene of heavy fighting on June 1 and 2 last year, during which Yap, a nurse working at the nearby hospital, was abducted along with a number of her co-workers.

The President will go back to Zamboanga City on Wednesday morning. From there she will fly back to Manila. ***With reports from Hernan P. de la Cruz, Franklin A. Caliguid and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Sabaya's world . . .

From page A1

the Sipawak complex, the area where Sabaya and his group were reportedly holed up.

The military now has "tactical advantage" over the Abu Sayyaf, according to Sua. He said the bandits were not familiar with the terrain.

"Come to think of it, we're in the same situation," Sua said. But he said the military had the advantage "because our operating troops have already stayed for some time in Sirawai and have become familiar with the place."

No deadline

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said he would not give a deadline for the renewed military operations against the bandits.

"I will not give a timetable," Reyes said at a press briefing in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur, after he was named adopted datu of the Higaonon tribe.

"We've been there before. We gave a timetable before and we got stuck," he said.

The military has gained the upper hand against the Abu Sayyaf with the deployment of two more battalions to the area, Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Armed Forces chief of staff, said.

Five companies of Scout Rangers and soldiers belonging to the 44th and 33rd Infantry Battalions are now stationed in Sirawai.

"Their end is near," Cimatu told the INQUIRER.

Doubts

But some people doubt that the Philippine military can do the job against the bandits.

"The United States should join (the hunt) because the (Philippine) military is not effective," Cirilo Nacorda, parish priest of Lamitan, Basilan, said at a Mass for the slain hostages.

"Most of their operations are failures," said Nacorda, himself a former hostage of the Abu Sayyaf.

The priest has accused military officers of colluding with the outlaw group, possibly for part of the ransom from the kidnappings.

In Manila, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said top military officials should "put their money where their mouths are."

Oreta said the military had no more excuse not to finish off the Abu Sayyaf following its claim that it had broken the backbone of the group.

The military has promised to destroy the Abu Sayyaf since an all-out offensive was launched against the bandits by the Estrada administration two years ago, she said.

To prevent bandits from fleeing to Malaysia and neighboring countries, the military has secured the borders of southern Philippines.

"We have in place a border agreement with Malaysia. We have conducted some measures regulating the use of ships and boats (in the area)," Cimatu told the INQUIRER at the Clark Economic Zone where he attended the 14th anniversary celebration of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Cimatu admitted that the military had "limited" naval vessels in the area. "But we are doing our best," he added.

Hold order

The Department of Justice yesterday issued a hold-departure order (HDO) against the five top leaders of the Abu Sayyaf.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the move would show that the government was prepared to extend its search for the bandits beyond the country's borders.

"We anticipate the possibility that Abu Sayyaf leaders may leave the Philippines legally or illegally," said Perez. "They might use their aliases, so we have already notified immigration agents of their identities."

He identified the five Abu Sayyaf commanders as Amir Khadafi Abubaker Janjalani, also known as Abu Muktar, Khadafi Monationio or Jimar Manalad; Jainal Antel Sali Jr. aka Abu Solaiman; Aldam Tilao, aka Abu Sabaya; Isnilon Totoni Hapilon aka Abu Musab; and Hamsitaji Marusi aka Jose Ramirez, Siti Birkis or Tiberkis. ***With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, in Pampanga***

PPA LOWERED
for June 2002

Down from P3.30 per kwh in May to P2.04 per kwh in June
For a decrease of P1.26 per kwh*

* For billing days in May, the May PPA of P3.30 will apply while billing days in June will have the lower PPA of P2.04.
* Reflected in the May-June bills depending on your bill date.

Why did the PPA go down in June?

- NPC lowered to 40 centavos per kwh effective May 8, its Purchased Power Cost Adjustment (PPCA) which is part of its monthly bill to Meralco. But its other charges to Meralco increased, for a net reduction of 36 centavos per kwh.
- Meralco did not collect the deferred PPA of 50 centavos to comply with the Energy Regulatory Commission's Cease and Desist Order.
- Meralco's IPPs (independent power producers) were allowed by NPC to run at better levels for a decrease of 40 centavos. The more Meralco is allowed by NPC to buy power from its IPPs, the lower the PPA.

PPA amount will vary every month.
These affect the amount of the PPA:

- How much NPC charges Meralco for the power bought from it.
- How much power NPC will allow Meralco to buy from its IPPs.

To compute the PPA, Meralco follows a formula approved by government. Every month, Meralco submits this computation to ERC.

Here is a sample of how the PPA will be computed for your May-June electric bills and the average PPA depending on the bill date.

SAMPLE PPA COMPUTATION FOR JUNE 3 BILL

Bill Date:	June 3, 2002
Billing Period:	May 3, 2002 to June 3, 2002
Days in May:	28 days (May 3 to May 31)
Days in June	3 days (June 1 to June 3)
Total number of days:	31 days
PPA for month of May:	P3.30 per kWh
PPA for month of June:	**P2.04 per kWh**

PPA for June 3 bill: = (28 days x P3.30) + (3 days x P2.04) / 31 days

= **P3.178 per kWh**

AVERAGE PPA FOR THE JUNE 2002 BILLING
JUNE 2002 BILLING

Bill Date	Billing period From	Billing period To	Number of Billing Days In May	Number of Billing Days In June	Number of Billing Days Total	Corresponding PPA*
1-Jun	2-May	1-Jun	29	1	30	3.258
3-Jun	3-May	3-Jun	28	3	31	**3.178**
4-Jun	4-May	4-Jun	27	4	31	3.137
5-Jun	6-May	5-Jun	25	5	30	3.090
6-Jun	7-May	6-Jun	24	6	30	3.048
7-Jun	8-May	7-Jun	23	7	30	3.006
8-Jun	9-May	8-Jun	22	8	30	2.964
10-Jun	10-May	10-Jun	21	10	31	2.894
11-Jun	13-May	11-Jun	18	11	29	2.822
13-Jun	14-May	13-Jun	17	13	30	2.754
14-Jun	15-May	14-Jun	16	14	30	2.712
15-Jun	16-May	15-Jun	15	15	30	2.670
17-Jun	17-May	17-Jun	14	17	31	2.609
18-Jun	18-May	18-Jun	13	18	31	2.568
19-Jun	20-May	19-Jun	11	19	30	2.502
20-Jun	21-May	20-Jun	10	20	30	2.460
21-Jun	22-May	21-Jun	9	21	30	2.418
22-Jun	23-May	22-Jun	8	22	30	2.376
24-Jun	24-May	24-Jun	7	24	31	2.325
25-Jun	25-May	25-Jun	6	25	31	2.284
27-Jun	27-May	27-Jun	4	27	31	2.203
28-Jun	28-May	28-Jun	3	28	31	2.162
29-Jun	29-May	29-Jun	2	29	31	2.121
30-Jun	31-May	30-Jun		30	30	**2.040**

* This is the equivalent PPA used in computing your June electric bill

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WORLD CUP RIOTING

Russia's loss triggers death to 2

WORLD CUP 2002 STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Group A							
Denmark	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Senegal	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Uruguay	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
France	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Group B							
Spain	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
South Africa	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Paraguay	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Slovenia	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Group C							
Brazil	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Costa Rica	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Turkey	2	0	0	1	2	3	1
China	2	0	0	2	0	6	0
Group D							
Korea	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
USA	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Portugal	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Poland	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Group E							
Germany	2	1	1	0	9	1	4
Cameroon	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Rep Ireland	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Saudi Arabia	2	0	0	2	0	9	0
Group F							
Sweden	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
England	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Argentina	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Nigeria	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Group G							
Mexico	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Italy	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Croatia	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Ecuador	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Group H							
Japan	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Russia	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Belgium	2	0	2	0	2	3	2
Tunisia	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

KOREAN Ahn Jung-hwan (09) heads the equalizing goal during the South Korea-USA game yesterday in Daegu, South Korea. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. AP

France fights for life versus Denmark today

MOSCOW—The death toll in a violent soccer riot that followed Russia's loss to Japan in World Cup play rose to two Monday with the death overnight of another victim of the bloody riot, police said.

Russian media had reported that the second death was a police officer who died Monday from knife wounds, but police said they were still trying to establish the victim's identity and how he died.

SEOUL, South Korea—France, the defending World Cup and European champion and FIFA's top-ranked team, was waiting Monday for its fate to be decided by one man's leg.

Midfield star Zinedine Zidane was expected to undergo a training session that will determine whether he has recovered from a thigh injury and can play against Denmark today.

France, which has failed to score so far in this World Cup, needs to beat Denmark by a two-goal margin to guarantee a spot in the second round of the World Cup. The last titleholder to exit in the first round was Brazil in 1966.

In another development, hooligans attacked a dormitory housing Vietnamese workers late Sunday hurling empty beer bottles at the building, police said. No further details were immediately available.

Several main streets in central Moscow erupted into a battle zone Sunday evening during a World Cup match in which Russia lost 0-1 to Japan that was broadcast live on a large screen across a square from the Kremlin walls. *AP*

South Korea, US draw, 1-1

DAEGU, South Korea —Ahn Jung-hwan scored a 78th-minute equalizer Monday as co-host South Korea came back to draw 1-1 with the United States in Group D.

Both teams can secure a place in the second round with a draw in their final group matches Friday. The U.S., which last reached the second round in 1994 at home, plays Poland and South Korea faces Portugal.

Ahn, a second-half substitute, outjumped defender Jeff Agoos to head in a pass from Eul Yong-lee.

Jung did a dance that appeared to be speedskating movements, a reference to the disqualification of Kim Dong-sung in the 1,500-meter short-track final of February's Salt Lake City Olympics.

South Korea, sky high after its 2-0 opening upset of Poland, dominated most of the game and had a chance to win it in the 89th, but Yong Soo-Choi, with an open net, chipped the ball over the crossbar.

United States forward Clint Mathis had put the Americans in the lead in the 24th-minute in his return to the lineup, and Brad Friedel made brilliant saves, including stopping a penalty kick.

South Korea and the United States each have four points from their first two matches, with the co-host leading Group D on goal difference.

Mathis got the goal when he took a pass from John O'Brien, who had run the ball up from midfield, trapped it with his right foot and kicked it with his left, slotting it past goalkeeper Lee Woon-jae from about 12 meters (yards).

Friedel, starting his second straight game over Kasey Keller, made a brilliant stop in the 40th minute after Agoos was called for dumping Hwang Sun-hon in the penalty area when U.S. defender Eddie Pope tumbled into the players.

Friedel, who had stopped Seol Ki-hyeon point blank just as the penalty kick was whistled, dived to his right and parried Lee Eul-yong's penalty kick away. The rebound went wide. *AP*

San Beda, Ateneo football champions

SAN Beda and Ateneo ruled their respective divisions recently in the adidas lightning football tournament.

The San Beda booters crushed LSGH boys to bring home the under 19 cup, while Kurt Alvarez led the Ateneo team in winning the under 15 title in the event presented by adidas Philippines in cooperation with Fuji Films and McDonald's and supported by Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Zed, HSBC, Sony Records, Dream Broadcasting, Green Cross Alcohol, 99.5 RT and 89.9 dwTM.

Gina Monfort, wife of the late Philippine Football Federation secretary general Chris Monfort, and adidas Philippines sports marketing assistant manager Goody Custodio led the awarding ceremonies at the Ateneo de Manila football grounds.

The Mindanao leg will be held in Davao on June 22.

The second of the Visayan legs will be held on June 15 when the intense football clashes transfer to Bacolod City.

The team that comes out top in each level per leg qualifies to the national finals slated on June 30 at the Ateneo de Manila football grounds.

Cagayan soccer tomorrow

AT least eight teams per division will take part in the Cagayan De Oro eliminations of the 1st adidas ligthning football tournament kicking off tomorrow at the Emmanuel Pelaez Sports Stadium. Among the participants sponsored by adidas Philippines in cooperation with Fuji films and McDonald's are teams coming from as far as Iligan and Bukidnon. Adidas Philippines president and managing director John Alonte and Philippine Football Federation president Rene Adad are expected to grace the inaugural rites preceding the opening games. "All teams have strong chances of winning the tournament and represent Cagayan de Oro in the first adidas lightning football," said Alonte. "We'll be in for some exciting and thrilling games."

Coseteng private party

SUBIC—Two-time circuit racing champion Jody Coseteng of Autoplus-Caltex-Red Horse is turning this year's SVI Petron Grand Prix into his own private party.

Looking almost unstoppable in his brand-new Honda SIR, Coseteng completed a sweep of the races for the third straight weekend to take top honors in the centerpiece Blaze super saloon category at the Subic International Raceway here Sunday.

Coseteng beat Carlos Anton of Gulf Oil MP Turbo in the fifth round and Mike Aguilar of Castrol-Velocity Motors in the sixth round.

Lakers one win away from NBA 'three-peat'

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—The Los Angeles Lakers, with reliable Robert Horry hitting the go-ahead basket and seldom-used Devean George playing a major role, are within one win of a championship three-peat.

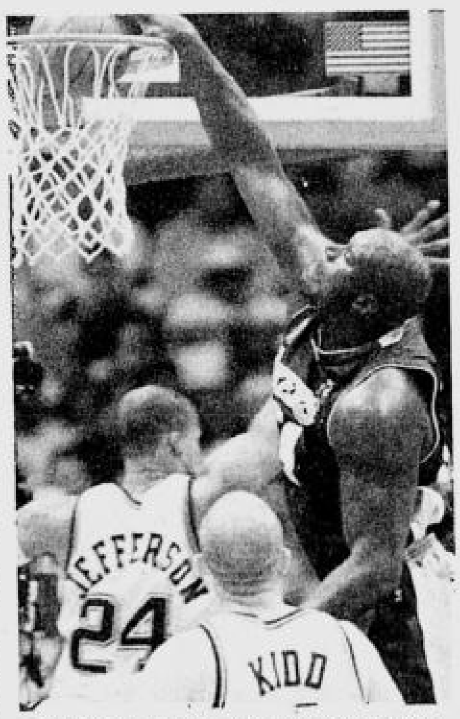
Considering no team has ever come back from a 3-0 deficit in the NBA playoffs, much less the NBA Finals, it's all but assured.

While Kobe Bryant scored 36 points and Shaquille O'Neal added 35, the Lakers had to tighten their defense and get other contributions down the stretch to beat the New Jersey Nets 106-103 Sunday.

The Lakers can complete a sweep Wednesday night at New Jersey's Continental Airlines Arena, where it appeared the Nets were going to get back into the best-of-seven series by virtue of a red-hot shooting display.

But making 10 consecutive shots late in the third quarter and early in the fourth wouldn't be enough for the Eastern Conference champions.

The two-time defending champion Lakers, who have been in tight situations on so many occasions, had what it takes down the stretch, outscoring the Nets 13-2 to go take the lead and 19-9 to finish the game. *AP*


O'NEAL (right) slam-dunks over Nets forward Richard Jefferson (24) as Net Jason Kidd watches helplessly. The Lakers won, 106-103. AP

Ateneo enters PBL finals

By Dennis U. Eroa

ATENEO-Hapee-Negros Navigation leaned on a furious fourth-quarter assault to down Shark Energy Drink, 72-60, and grab the first finals spot with one playing day left in the semifinals of the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Pasig Sports Center

Bullstrong Enrico Villanueva wrought havoc on the shaded lane, and playmaker Celino Cruz kept the Energy Drink Kings at bay with his timely perimeter shots as the Blue Eagles upped their frontrunning record to 13-5.

Coach Joel Banal's charges are assured of their first finals appearance in the PBL after the ICTSI-La Salle Green Archers dropped a close 68-72 decision to Blu Sun Power in the highly physical second game. La Salle's Bernzon Franco and playmaker Mike Cortez got bloodied as the Archers dropped to 11-7.

La Salle must beat Ateneo in the semifinals tomorrow to gain at least a playoff for the second finals slot.

A three-way tie for second can happen if ICTSI-La Salle loses to Ateneo and Blu bows to Kutitap (10-8). The team with the highest quotient will draw a bye and will meet the winner of the playoff between the remaining two teams for the right to join Ateneo in the finals.

Mike's 'Oyster' golf slated at W'Wack

PROJECT Oyster, a youth development program initiated by the police in cooperation with various sectors of the national community, is the prime beneficiary of the First Gentleman's Cup, a golf tournament that will be staged by friends of Mike Arroyo's on his birthday, June 27.

Venue of the fundraising tournament is Wack Wack West.

Mr. Arroyo unhesitatingly lent his name and influence to ensure the project's success in keeping with his well-known but not so publicized concern for young people.

From the beginning of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's administration, the low-key activities of the First Gentleman have usually been for the benefit of young people.

Oyster stands for "Out-of-School Youth Serving Towards Economic Recovery."

Col. Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, who has been asked to head the organizing committee, believes the Gentleman's Cup has a noble objective.

"The proceeds are to be used for the benefit of out-of-school youth through Project Oyster. That indeed is a worthy cause to support," he said. "We are happy that the First Gentleman has allowed himself to be used as a vehicle for helping the less fortunate, especially the out-of-school youth."

Cabangon Chua is joined in his committee by John KC Ng, Jimmy Tang and Alfonso Siy as co-chair of ways and means, Salvador Malbarosa as secretariat chair, Pablo Soon as tournament chair and Bones Floro as tournament director.

In Project Oyster, the First Gentleman once more demonstrates his concern for the youth. The program focuses on out-of-school youth and seeks to give them skills training that will unleash their energies and make them active workers for development. Initiated by the police establishment, it also aims to promote the image of the Philippine National Police (PNP) as a full partner in community building and youth development.

No alibis, please

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

LENNOX Lewis beat Mike Tyson fair and square. That's all there is to it.

Lewis was simply the better heavyweight of the two on Sunday.

Tyson's big punch never came because Lewis made sure it would never come. His 6-inch advantage in height took care of Tyson's trademark killer assault—a lunging shot to the head done in lightning speed.

Tyson kept missing because Lewis fought a wise game: From a distance.

Lewis even improvised a bit: He would tie up Tyson each time Tyson tried to barrel his way to the inside.

A friend of mine said Lewis is now the new Muhammad Ali. In a sense, yes. An Ali-like fight was what Lewis did to knock Tyson out to retain his WBC/IBF titles.

Lewis did not have Ali's footwork "to float like a butterfly." But that left jab by Lewis stung Tyson "like a bee" without let-up. Before Lewis finished off Tyson with a right to the jaw in the eighth, the left jab had raised a mouse on Tyson's right eyebrow. Blood oozed grisly from there as Tyson lay flat on his back after the knockout.

My brother called me up long distance from Mangatarem, Pangasinan, hours before the fight.

"Do you honestly believe Tyson will beat Lewis?" he said. "My policemen-friends here read your column today but they want to be sure because they believe in you."

I said, "Yes, I'm for Tyson."

After the fight, my brother didn't call anymore.

I know. He and his policemen-friends must have spent the rest of the day drinking beer.

For sure, the bill's on them.

Someone "texted" me to say I bet for the wrong Tyson.

"You had a new Tyson this time," went the text. "The old Tyson was in the crowd."

Nice try but I'm not buying that. No alibis for me. If a beast like Tyson knew how to accept defeat, the more reason I should know when to accept defeat. We must be man enough to accept things as they come. At all times as much as possible.

If Lewis' win did not shock Tyson believers enough, were Tyson devotees not shocked by their idol's meek-as-a-lamb behavior after the fight? Didn't you see Tyson wipe off some sweat out of Lewis' temple during the post-fight TV interview?

I can't believe he's done that. But as Shakespeare wrote, even the devil would quote the scriptures if it suited him fine.

In parting, may I say this to those who believed in me other than my brother and his policemen-friends: Sorry. To those who didn't: Congratulations.

Hopefully, with Tyson's defeat, the Tyson Poison is finally buried forever.

■

With Pablo Soon actively involved in the preparation of the First Gentleman's Cup set for June 27 at Wack Wack, I'm sure the Project Oyster is headed for a smashing success.

SP Malbarosa can attest to that.

SPORTSWATCH

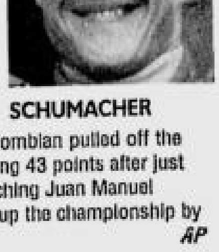
Smith twin surprise: Wife and victory

HARRISON, N.Y—Chris Smith began the biggest day of his golf career by catching his wife in a lie. The Buick Classic winner thought his wife Beth was driving home to Indiana from Chicago, but she was actually at the Westchester Country Club for Sunday's final round. She got what she came for, looking on as her 33-year-old husband won his first PGA Tour title, shooting a 1-under-par 70 for a two-stroke victory. He had a 12-under 272 total, earned $ 630,000 and locked up a tour exemption through 2004. "The funny thing is that I've played better before and not gotten the job done," said Smith, in tears as he walked off the 18th green. "I guess that's the crazy thing about this game." In Meriden, England, Darren Clarke won his third English Open in four years Sunday, a final round of 68 giving him a three-stroke victory over Denmark's Soren Hansen. *AP*

Se Ri Pak scores LPGA Tour record

WILMINGTON, Delaware —Se Ri Pak stole the show from 45-year-old Beth Daniel, turning a four-stroke deficit into a three-stroke victory at the LPGA Championship on Sunday to become the youngest woman to win four major championships. Starting with a 112-meter (123-yard) wedge that checked up 45 centimeters (18 inches) behind the hole for a birdie on No. 10, Pak pulled away on the back nine and closed with a 1-under 70 for her 15th career victory in just five years on the LPGA Tour. Daniel, a Hall of Famer who hasn't won since 1995, was trying to become the oldest woman to win a major. But she buckled under the relentless pressure from Pak and fell too far behind to catch up at difficult DuPont Country Club. In Akron, Ohio, Fuzzy Zoeller made several daring escapes for par coming down the stretch to win the Senior PGA Championship on Sunday, his first victory since joining the senior tour earlier this year and it came in a major. *AP*

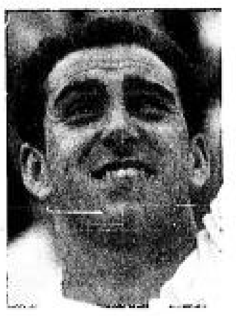
Schumacher tops Canadian Grand Prix


SCHUMACHER

MONTREAL —Michael Schumacher tightened his grip on the Formula One points lead with a workmanlike win Sunday in the Canadian Grand Prix, giving Ferrari its 150th victory. The four-time world champion took the lead for good when pole-winner Juan Pablo Montoya made his second and final pit stop on lap 51 of the 70-lap event at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve. Montoya moved back to second place when Schumacher's Ferrari teammate, Rubens Barrichello pitted, but his challenge ended on lap 56 when smoke began pouring from the engine on his Williams BMW and the 26-year-old Colombian pulled off the track. Schumacher stretched his lead to an eye-popping 43 points after just eight of 17 races, putting him well on the way to matching Juan Manuel Fangio's record of five titles. Asked if he might wrap up the championship by July, Schumacher shrugged. *AP*

FRENCH OPEN

At last, Costa wins a Grand Slam


COSTA

PARIS—Over the years, Albert Costa watched from the sideline as his friends and countrymen made Roland Garros their own clay-court playground.

Sergi Bruguera and Alberto Berasategui met in a French Open final eight years ago, Carlos Moya and Alex Corretja played for the championship in 1998.

While his fellow Spaniards evolved into top level Grand Slam contenders on the slower surface, Costa was confronted with this lingering inner question: "Oh, what's happening with me? They're playing the final, I'm not."

He can stop asking. He's now a French Open champion himself.

"I don't believe yet that I won in Roland Garros. I need at least two or three days to think about it," Costa said Sunday following his 6-1, 6-0, 4-6, 6-3 victory over another compatriot, Juan Carlos Ferrero.

If it takes that long to sink in, Costa will be preparing for a celebration of a different sort in what certainly will be one of the most memorable stretches of his life—he's getting married Friday, and Corretja will be his best man. Later this month, Costa will turn 27.

On the women's side, the Williams family had another memorable Grand Slam tournament. Serena beat Venus 7-5, 6-3 Saturday, nine months after her older sister won their first Sister Slam final at the U.S. Open. When the rankings are released Monday, Venus will be No. 1, and Serena, as she put it, "a solid No. 2."

Costa's victory, built with his own well-angled and consistent groundstrokes combined with the uncertain and surprisingly error-filled play of Ferrero, ended with him covered in clay.

He jubilantly fell to the ground on his back after Ferrero double faulted on match point.

"When I was there, I was thinking, 'Did I win?'" Costa said.

After greeting Ferrero at the net, he made his way to the friend's section to kiss his parents and soon-to-be wife, while hoisting his 1-year-old twin daughters in the air.

Costa's trip to the victory podium, he said, actually began during the clay court season a year ago when he decided it was time to play some stress-free tennis.

SPORTSWATCH

Santos snares women's singles title

BACOLOD CITY—Fourth seed Ana Patricia Santos won the women's singles title over top seed Czarina Mae Arevalo, 6-1, 7-5, yesterday in the Luis Hilado Memorial Cup at the Negros Occidental Tennis Association (NOTA) outdoor shellcourt here. Santos and Arevalo bagged the doubles crown after pulling off a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Charise Godoy and Esple Penalosa. The men's doubles title went to third seeds Jesus Lapore and Rolando Ruel Jr.

Clemens shines as Yankees down Giants

NEW YORK—Roger Clemens plunked Barry Bonds with a pitch on his protective arm guard and walked him three times as the New York Yankees pitched around the slugger all afternoon and beat the San Francisco Giants, 4-2, Sunday. Clemens got his 288th career victory while Bonds took only two swings.

AP

Halh, Tan head foreign bowling bets

IT'S the foreign bets' turn to strut their wares as the 31st Boysen-PBC International Open enters its final week at the Green Valley Center in Pasig. Defending Open Masters champions Tom Halh and Jennifer Tan of Singapore anchor the foreign entries' campaign in this meet serving as the third leg of the CGU Asian Bowling Tour 2002. Also expected to see action today are Malaysian Wendy Cha and Thailand's Siriphon Mayura.

Kennie prevails but Kennevic loses

KENNIE Asuncion crushed Valle Verde teammate Margarita Manalang, 11-2, 11-3, to win the ladies singles crown but brother Kennevic conceded the men's title in the JVC Open badminton championships Sunday at the Glorietta activity Center. Asuncion overwhelmed her opponent to win the P15,000 champion's purse before a Sunday crowd. Kennevic, the top seed, fell to Ian Piencenaves of the Army-Premier City Club, 5-15, 15-12, 15-7.

GMA FETES OLYMPIANS

Munich (1972) and Montreal (1976) Olympian Mariano "Tom" Ong is congratulated by President Macapagal Arroyo after presenting him a commemorative medal during the luncheon she hosted recently for the Philippine Olympians Association. At left is International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines Francisco Elizalde.

World Slasher returns to Big Dome June 17

THE 2002 World Slasher 8-Cock Derby, the biggest, richest and most prestigious cockfighting event of the year, returns to the Araneta Coliseum on June 17, 19 and 21.

Organized by the National Cockers Association, this "Olympics of Cockfighting" will be hosted by Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta, Ito Ynares, and the Firefly Group, with Thunder Bird Enertone ready-mix maintenance Feeds as major sponsor. Multititled cocker-breeders from the United States have confirmed their participation, saying they are ready to do battle by fielding unusually powerful cocks to challenge the supremacy of their Filipino counterparts. The Philippines' Dicky Lim (Spence Winslet) won the first leg of the World Slasher Cup last January. Bannering the US contingent are proven winners Dan Gray (Louisiana), Roger Roberts and Johnny Philips (Georgia), Tom Cooper and Jeff Hudspeth (North Carolina), Chuck Berry (Oklahoma) and Rene Medina, Romy Arciaga and Armando Santos (California), to name a few. More entries are due this week, including cockfighters from Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Guam and Hawaii.

Jody posts 3rd sweep

SUBIC—The Caltex Havoline-Autoplus Team proved supreme as lead driver Jody Coseteng bucked the challenge of Jojo Silverio to capture his third sweep on Sunday in the 2002 SVI Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway here.

It was a tough task for Coseteng who had to stake his leadership in both the SVI Super Saloon Series and the Philippine National Touring Car Championship as SVI organizers combined the two events in one race.

Thanks to Autoplus' car setup, Coseteng managed to get away with another sweep that fortified his grip of the top spot in both events.

Coseteng's victory capped Caltex Havoline's big harvest for the day.

Caltex-Beefeater's Oscar Aguilar clinched his first major win as he climbed up from seventh place to rule the Class C category of the afternoon's SVI Challenge Cup race while Peewee Mendiola also snatched second place in the Novice division of the same race.

ASF and Company hosts 4-cock derby tonight

BIG-TIME and ordinary derbyists collide at the Mandaluyong Coliseum tonight as the "ASF and Company 4-Cock Derby" gets under way before an anticipated banner crowd.

This one-day event, to be hosted by ASF and Co. and Edwin Recio, is a fitting follow-up to the highly successful 9-Cock International Derby last week where five cockers emerged as champions. They were hotelier Biboy Enriquez (Firebird MB), Arnis Master Ag-Sur (Raymond Velayo and Rep. Ompong Plaza), Arnis Master II (R. Velayo/Peping Cojuangco), Carlos Ortega (C and J Farms) and Jessie Viceo (San Rafael).

Meanwhile, submission of weights to the BNB 4-Cock Derby (Berong Javellana, Noli Estrellado and Bondying Catajan) is tomorrow, Wednesday, June 12. For inquiries, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

Fishing addicts

SO what if monsoon winds and afternoon rains are here. Heavy tackle angling is still raging. The hunt continues for trophy billfish and trophy tuna.

COMMENTARY

by Vic Vic Villavicencio

Only a couple of weeks back, relative rookies in this great outdoor sport of fishing humbled the veterans in the Triple V National Fishing Championship in Cagayan. Henry Ordinanza of Cavite Anglers Club and Butch Tam of Hong Kong won first and second place honors while Mark Rosales of the newly formed Manila Anglers Club completed the rankings at third.

The PGFF series in San Vicente, Santa Ana, Cagayan will officially end with yet another event, the Toots Echauz Billfish Tournament June 13-15. Already 32 anglers are registered for this one; the list is an interesting mix of new and all-too-familiar names in the sport fishing community.

Soon after the close of this sixth leg in the PGFF series for 2002, the winners will be honored at the mid-year affair on June 25.

Then the action moves over to Palawan for the tuna drift-fishing competition sponsored by Standard Insurance. The big game fishing addicts are even now already sharpening their tuna hooks for this one.

This early there are reports indicating exciting tuna action. Stories out of Puerto Princesa have it that local fishermen are already making good money selling good-size yellow fins to buyers for the sashimi and export markets. The expectation is that in a month's time the lime breaking tunas will be even bigger. Just the thought of bent rods, shrieking reels and frantic action on an outrigger banca in a star-studded night is enough to get an angler's adrenalin flowing.

The aspiring big game angler will be well-advised to make a serious effort to be on this one. It's a good opportunity to learn the basics—and maybe even a few tricks—from the gathering of tuna fishing oldtimers.

The number to call for more information on this is 373-0743.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

SOCCER: Futbol Mundial at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

World Cup Today at 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

World Cup 2002 – Cameroon vs Germany at 7:30 p.m. on Dream 42

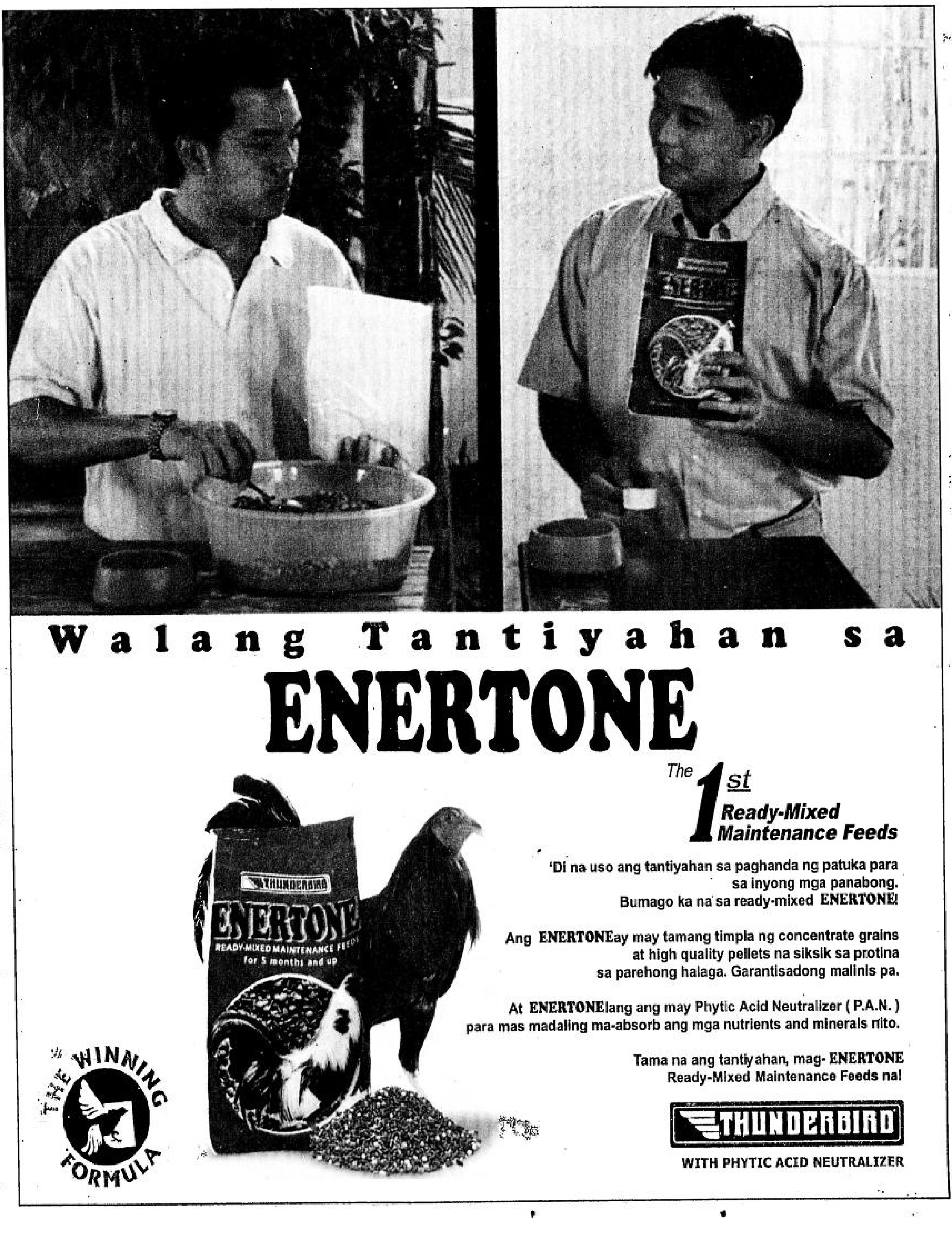
GOLF: PGA Buick Classic, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

PGA Europro Tour 2002 Highlights at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, George Fernandez tallied 1418 pins to win the singles crown in the 19th PBC (Philippine Bowling Congress) tenpin championship at the Green Valley lanes in Pasig.



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9-BALL CHALLENGE

'Django' vs Deuel for title

By Dennis U. Eroa

REIGNING Japan Open champion Francisco "Django" Bustamante got back at Japanese ace Kunihiko Takahashi, 9-5, and barged into the final of the 2002 $40,000 (P2M) Motolite 9-Ball World Challenge at the Araneta Coliseum.

But Bustamante's more illustrious compatriot, Efren "Bata" Reyes, wasn't as successful as he fell to Corey Deuel of the United States, 9-7, in the other semifinal match.

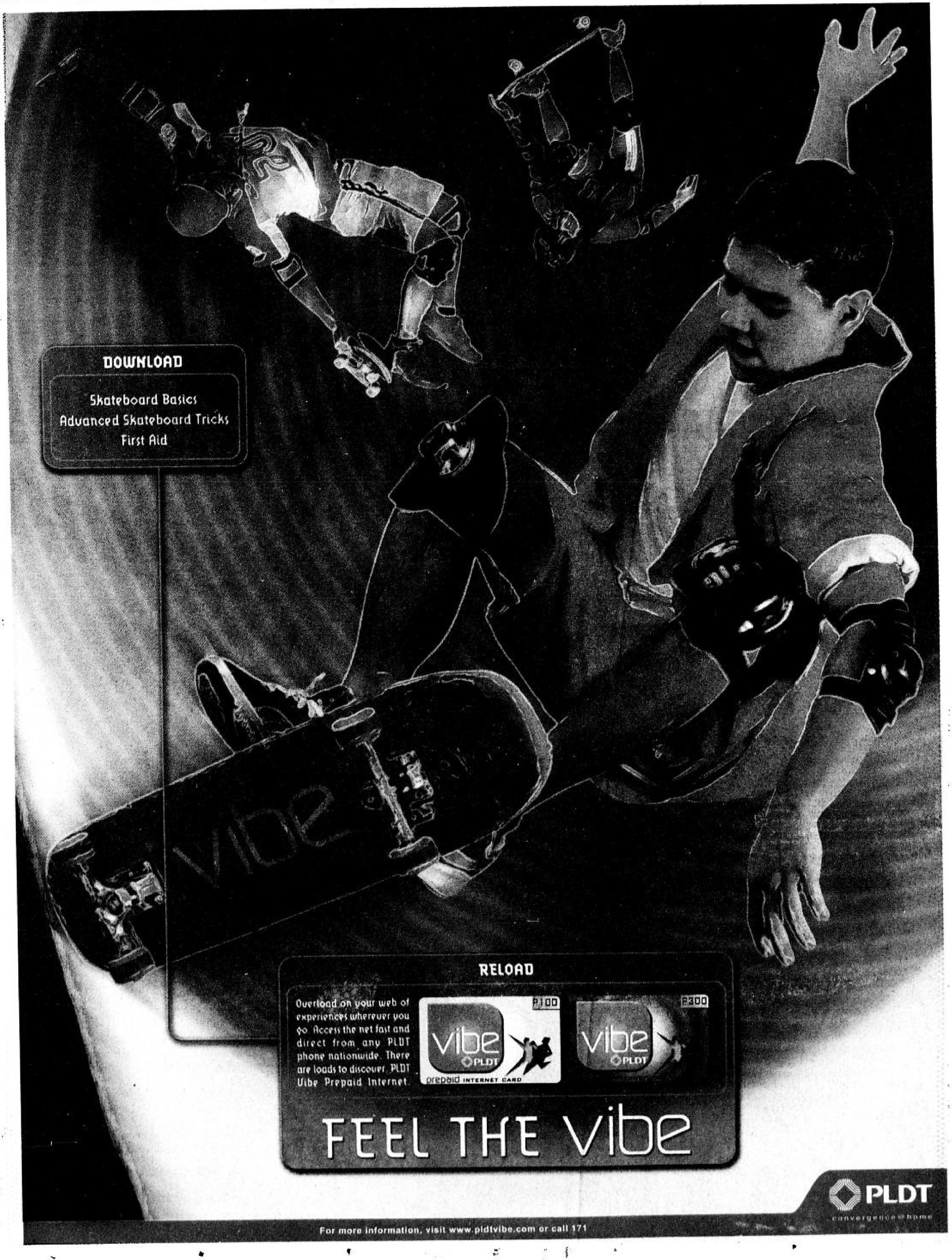
Bustamante shrugged off a slow start to avenge his controversial 7-6 loss to Takahashi at the end of the preliminaries last Sunday. Bustamante's setback was heavily criticized by five-time world champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland, who bowed out of semifinal contention.

"I really wanted to win this tournament because the $15,000 champion's purse (P750,000) is not a joke," said Bustamante, who two years ago topped the Motolite International 9-Ball Championship in Makati City.

The Bustamante-Deuel tiff is set today at 6 p.m. Reyes clashes with Takahashi for third place. The second placer in the race-to-13 final will receive $10,000. The third and fourth finishers pocket $7,500 and $5,000, respectively.

The week-long event pitting the Philippines' best against the rest of the world is promoted and produced by Viva Vintage and Puyat Sports.

Takahashi led 4-2, but Bustamante, boosted by superior breaks, answered by winning the next three racks for a 5-4 lead.



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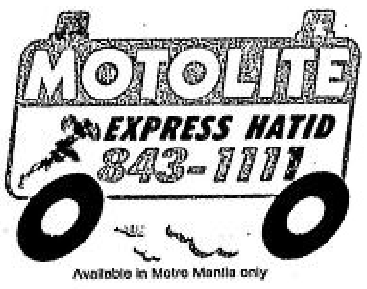

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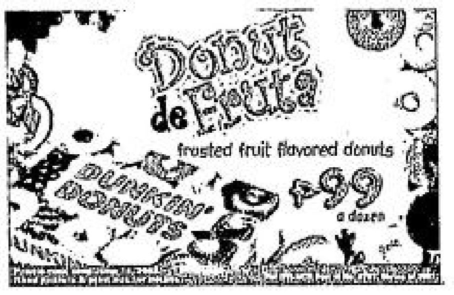


Hostage taker's kin to sue cops

By Villamor Visaya Jr.,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Alcuin Papa

ROSITA Talvo, the mother of slain hostage taker Diomedes Talvo, might file homicide charges against the 21 Pasay City policemen and 8 Philtranco bus terminal guards who took part in the bungled rescue of 4-year-old hostage Dexter Balala in Pasay City on May 31.

Talvo's relatives revealed this during his burial in San Mateo, Isabela yesterday even as the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office summoned the policemen and the security guards to answer the homicide charges filed against them for the death of Balala.

Talvo's cousin Victorino Gaffud, 43, said he talked to Talvo's mother to convince her to file the charges.

"Only justice will give us peace," said Talvo's common-law wife Lydia Ganotice. Talvo was buried at the La Salette Catholic public cemetery in San Mateo.

About 2,000 people, including Talvo's relatives, friends and neighbors, endured the one-and-a-half hour walk from Barangay Villa Cruz to the town proper to bury Talvo. Hundreds of residents watch the funeral march along the way.

"I am urging our provincial and municipal leaders to help us pursue our quest for justice," Gaffud said.

The Talvo family said the statement of Dexter's father Darius Balala blaming the police for the bungled rescue "has somewhat eased our burden."

Dexter Balala was buried on Sunday in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Pasay City Prosecutor Francisco Beron issued the subpoenas for the policemen and guards and gave them up to June 14 to submit their counter affidavits in response to the charges.

Charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide were Pasay City chief of police Eduardo de la Cerna, Inspectors Reynaldo Baral, Aquilino Almazan and Edith Altera, SPO1 Alfredo Villa, Police Officers 3 Marco Duka, Rodolfo Soquina, Jose Jonard Castro, Renato Lleano, Police Officers 2 Ashley Gamulo, Raymundo Sabino, and Leoncio Munoz and Police Officers 1 Jay Martinez, Roland Garcia, Roberto Landong, Lemuel Galang, Christopher Torres, Gregorio Mendoza, Florante Nobleza, Roberto Gonzales and Andito Guardian.

The same charges were filed against Philtranco security guards Raul Herbias, Rolando Gerones, Angel Factoran Jr., Pepenio Santander, Alfred Estosos, Arnold Macario, Rey Mojica and Dennis Tripoli, all of the Saga Security Agency.

The panel of prosecutors Beron

HOSTAGE/ A24

Sharpshooter blames police

By Jerome Aning

RETIRED Manila police colonel and well-known sharpshooter Jaime "Jimmy" Santiago blames the "poor reaction" of the Pasay City lawmen in dealing with the hostage incident on May 31.

Santiago, now 44 and a private lawyer, said the Pasay policemen have forgotten the established rules of engagement which provide that the safety of the hostage is paramount.

"The moment that first blood is drawn, the hostage taker should have been neutralized," Santiago said in an interview. "Something should have been done immediately after the suspect first stabbed the victim."

He said the policemen's poor reaction was manifested in their "panic firing" on hostage taker Diomedes Talvo, which killed him and the hostage, 4-year-old Dexter Balala.

"It was the policemen's hesitancy to act quickly, and their failure to know the precise moment when to act, that cost the hostage's life," he said.

Santiago spent four of his 21 years in the Manila police as a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics team. He said he dealt with 20 hostage incidents.

In several cases, the hostage takers would quickly yield to authorities after learning that Santiago had arrived.

Santiago's life as a sharpshooter was made into a movie in 1996.

The former policemen also stressed the importance of negotiation in a hostage incident. "While we negotiate to put an end to the situation in a peaceful, non-bloody way, we also do so to determine the hostage taker's state of mind," he said.

"When the suspect turns out to be insane or is no longer rational due to the influence of drugs or alcohol, then negotiation becomes a tool to initiate a rescue attempt," he said.

When he saw Talvo in an unedited footage of the incident shown by a television network, Santiago said he thought the suspect appeared to be provoking the police to shoot because he really wanted to die.

"He was insincere in his demands," Santiago said. "He was allowed to go out (of the terminal) because he promised to let go of the child. At that point, a rescue attempt should have been quickly launched.

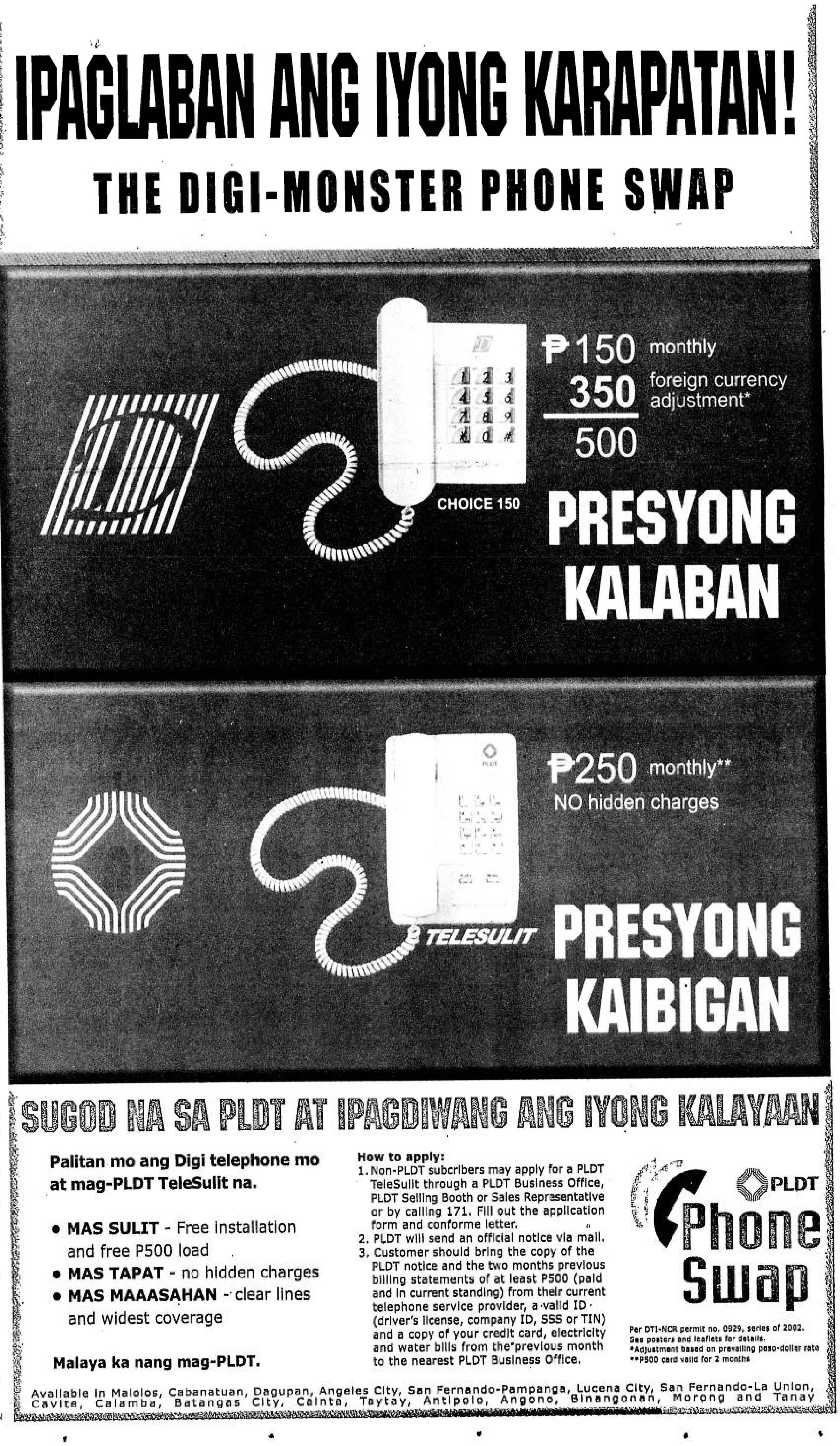
"Who knows, maybe he really wanted to commit suicide because of his problems."

The former policeman enumerated three ways the suspect could have been neutralized: A policeman, whether in disguise or not, could easily have approached the hostage taker from behind and hit him with a stick. The police rescuer could give the suspect a karate chop to disable him and take away his knife. Or the policemen could simply shoot the suspect.

But firing at the suspect many times "is too much," he said. "Only one carefully aimed shot is needed."

SHARPSHOOTER/ A24

FEAST FOR THE EYES
Ara Mina and Rudy Fernandez are among many stars who took part in a motorcade that went around Manila yesterday afternoon to lure moviegoers to the revived Manila Film Festival which starts tomorrow. Six movies especially made for the festival are participating. Their common goal: box-office success.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



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Sharpshooter blames police

From page A23

He said the policemen's hesitation and confusion may be attributed to their anxiety about the implications of whatever action they would take.

"In these days when human rights are a big concern, policemen have their careers to think about," he said. "They concentrated more on the implications of their actions because they might later be faulted."

Santiago said relatives of the hostage taker he had killed also filed charges against him. Other policemen who killed other hostage takers had the same experience.

When a policeman is made to answer in court for killing a hostage taker, he is left alone to hire a lawyer to defend himself, Santiago said.

He said this is the reason he founded last February the group called Legal Assistance for Manila Policemen (Lamp). It is a group of lawyers which gives legal aid to Western Police District members who are in similar situations.

Santiago disagreed with Metro Manila police chief Gen. Edgar Aglipay's order to sack the entire 341-strong Pasay police and subject them to retraining in crisis management and hostage incidents.

"A simple memorandum detailing what each policeman must do during hostage crises would have sufficed," Santiago said. "Each policeman should be given a duty that suits his field of specialization. It's not practical to teach them the entire tricks of the trade."

He said the Philippine National Police should focus more on training SWAT members in disabling suspects and a particular group of policemen in negotiations. The police leadership should also provide funds to acquire modern equipment such as state-of-the-art guns and rifles to fight hostage takers, he added.

Ping Lacson's quotable quotes

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

". . . And I reiterate my own challenge to the people of the Republic of the Philippines that if Colonel (Victor) Corpus, or anybody for that matter, would be able to present any validated, authenticated documents that would show that I have large amounts in cash deposits abroad, not only in the United States, Hong Kong, Canada . . . you name it, you name any country, and I will include that in my challenge.

"Then I would walk directly to any prison cell or any jail in the country without the benefit of trial. I renew and reiterate my challenge. Now, I throw my challenge back to you."

Ladies and Gentlemen, those words came from Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson. He made that statement during the joint hearing of the Senate committees on public order and illegal drugs, on accountability of public officers and investigations (otherwise known as the blue ribbon), and on national defense and security.

The exact date and time he made the above statement was Sept. 5, 2001 at 10:55 a.m.

***

Up to now, four days after reports of his dollar deposits in the United States were made public, Lacson has not voluntarily entered any jail as he promised.

Caught lying, the senator lied again when he told a television news program, TV Patrol: "I never denied that I opened accounts in the United States."

Huli na nga, humihirit pa!

Ay, naku, Pinky, napakasinungaling mo!

***

Here are other quotable quotes from Lacson:

"I hate politicians, I will never enter politics."

He said that when he was still the chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP). A reporter had asked him whether he was entertaining thoughts of running for public office.

Lacson was one of the early filers of certificates of candidacy at the Commission on Elections for the May 11, 2000 polls.

***

"I am not interested in becoming PNP chief. I will not accept it even if it is offered to me."

He issued that categorical statement when he was involved in a smear campaign against his boss, then PNP chief Roberto Lastimoso. There were speculations then that he was in a hurry to be appointed PNP chief.

***

"Mon, those guys were really killed in a shootout."

Lacson was looking at me straight in the eyes when he said that.

Who were "those guys"? They were the 11 suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng bank robbery gang who were killed by Lacson's men inside a van.

Witnesses said the suspects, two of whom were barely in their teens and working as houseboys for the group, were rounded up earlier by Lacson's men. They were supposed to have been taken to Camp Crame when they were gunned down.

I had ribbed Ping that he and his men in the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC) did a lousy job of making it appear that the guys died in a shootout when all indications pointed to a "salvage" or rubout.

***

So what if the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has discovered (so far) that Lacson's biggest US bank account contains only $200,000!

It might be, to quote Lacson, "a far cry from the amount they (government investigators) are trying to project" but it's still a US bank account.

Lacson has consistently denied he opened accounts in the US and other countries.

***

If you think that $200,000 is not "large," as Lacson would want to describe the FBI find, just wait when the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) comes out with other bank transactions of Lacson and his wife, Alice, in the United States.

I was shown documents by an NBI official showing that Lacson transferred about $700,000 to a US bank from the Philippines.

The Lacsons, according to the same documents, bought a luxury Toyota car in the United States for $100,000.

I am not in a position to say who that NBI official is. That NBI official said that what the FBI discovered so far was "just the tip of the iceberg."

Abangan ang mga susunod na kabanata.

***

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's birthday is on June 27 yet, but his friends are announcing this early the holding of a charity sports event to raise funds for out of school youths. One of Arroyo's pet projects is helping the less fortunate.

On June 27, a golf tournament will be held at the West Course of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Proceeds of the tournament will fund the activities of Project Oysters, a program that President Macapagal-Arroyo wants the Philippine National Police to help undertake.

"Oysters" stands for Out-of-School Youth Serving Towards Economic Recovery. It aims to help out of school youths become useful citizens.

Businessmen who are funding the project include Jimmy T. Tang and John K.C. Ng of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce. They are chair and co-chair of the finance committee of the First Gentleman's Gold Cup. Insurance magnate Antonio Cabangon Chua is the overall chair, while Alfonso Siy, president of the Quezon City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is overall co-chair.

Hostage taker's kin to sue cops

From page A23

DEXTER Balala's wake in Pampanga.

tasked to evaluate the charges are 2nd Assistant City Prosecutors Rolando Abrazago and Bernabe Augustus Solis and State Prosecutor Clarissa Kuong.

Beron added that he will have to approve the panel's findings before a case is filed in court, if necessary.

SPD Director Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez filed the charges on Thursday.

. Autopsy reports showed Dexter had died from stab wounds inflicted by Talvo and from a bullet near his heart. Talvo himself was shot to death after he started stabbing Dexter.

An autopsy on Talvo's body also showed he had taken shabu before the incident, according to investigators.

National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Director Gen. Edgar Aglipay told the families of the 341 Pasay City policemen who have been ordered to undergo retraining in crisis management and hostage situations to "make sacrifices."

"Let us accept that we have made mistakes," Aglipay said. "Let us know what to do to improve our service to the people. If you have individual problems (with the retraining), look for solutions on your own. I ask you to make sacrifices, too. Show the people that you can make sacrifices."

But he assured the policemen that they would return to their old posts after the 20-day retraining.

Aglipay also confirmed that the retraining would be held in Subic beginning June 17.

The wives of the policemen drafted an open letter, saying they have not been assured that their spouses would be brought back to their original posts. "We fear that our policemen will be relocated somewhere (else) but here after the training," their letter said.

Aglipay told the wives, "They will be replaced temporarily, but after that, they will return (to their old posts)."

But he did not give in to the requests of the families to have the refresher course conducted in batches and within Metro Manila.

He said the families of the policemen would not have to spend a single centavo for their retraining. He said the PNP would be spending "less than P1 million" for it.

Aglipay told reporters the refresher course would consist of physical training in the morning, lectures in the afternoon, and a prayer encounter with a priest.

"We have to attend to their moral and spiritual growth," he said.

He said he would invite either Fr. Gerry Orbos or Monsignor Soc Villegas and a Muslim ulama to attend to the policemen's spiritual needs.

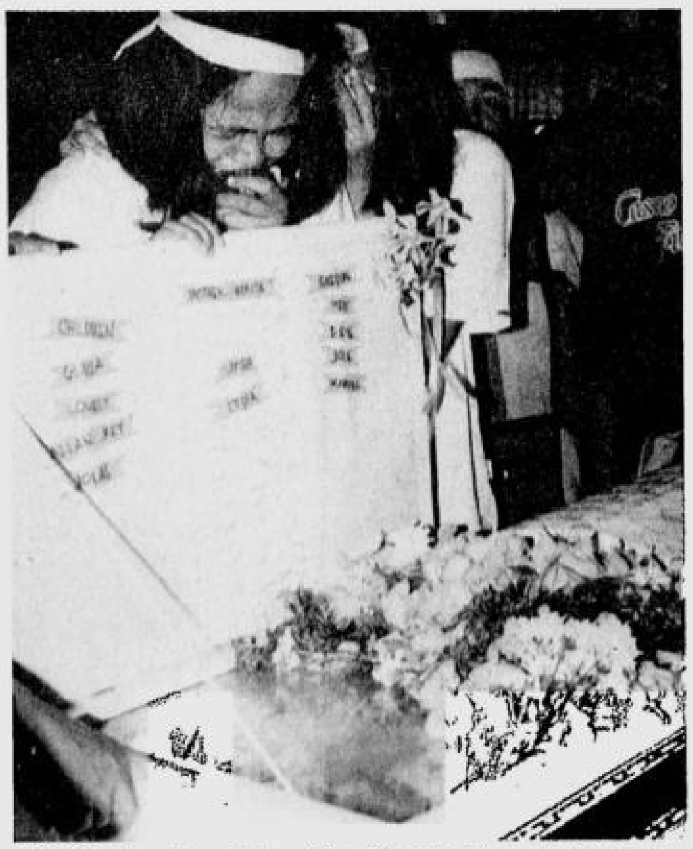
The NCRPO called all police station chiefs and district operations commanders to undergo a one-day seminar today at the Multi-Purpose Center in Camp Crame in Quezon City.

The policemen's proficiency in crisis management will be assessed during the seminar.

Aglipay and regional operations division chief Senior Supt. Oscar Marinas obliged all police officials, particularly station commanders and district operations chiefs in Metro Manila, to attend the seminar.

The Caloocan City police chief, Senior Supt. Benjardi Mantele, attended the seminar yesterday. "What happened to Pasay City was really unfortunate," he said. "We do not want to repeat what happened there."

With a report from Tina Santos



TALVO'S daughters Glaiza, 17, and Lovely, 14, weep beside his coffin.

VILLAMOR VISAYA JR.PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Traffic rerouting for June 12

MANILA police will implement tomorrow a major traffic rerouting scheme as part of the preparations for the celebration of the country's 104th Independence Day.

The Western Police District Traffic Management Division said the traffic rerouting for "Kalayaan 2002" will take effect at 6 a.m. tomorrow.

For the flag raising and wreath laying ceremonies at Rizal Park, to be closed to vehicular traffic from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. are Roxas Boulevard from UN Avenue to P. Burgos; Bonifacio Drive (west lane) from 25th Street to P. Burgos; T.M. Kalaw from Roxas Boulevard to Palacio Street.

During the civic/military parade, all vehicles travelling northward along Roxas Boulevard should turn right on President Quirino or on Pedro Gil Street, left on Taft Avenue to their destination.

Public utility vehicles travelling along A. Mabini Street should turn right on Pedro Gil Street or go straight or turn right on UN Avenue, and left on Taft Avenue.

Vehicles travelling southward from Del Pan Bridge should take A. Soriano (Adua) Street, turn right on Magallanes Drive, and right on P. Burgos Street and on to Taft Avenue.

Those coming from Quezon, MacArthur and Jones bridges and intending to go to the south should take Taft Avenue. Public utility vehicles coming from these bridges via Riverside Drive, Magallanes Drive and A. Soriano Street and bound for Pier South should, on their return trip and after circling Anda Circle, take A. Soriano Street, turn right on Gen. Luna Street, left on P. Burgos Street and on to their destination.

Vehicles from Ayala Boulevard should turn either right or left on Taft Avenue in going to their destination. Those coming from the north and going to the south via M.H. del Pilar should take Taft Avenue, turn right on Padre Faura Street, left on M.H. del Pilar and on to their point of destination.

All cargo trucks, trailers, vans and other heavy-duty vehicles coming from Road 10 and intending to cross Del Pan Bridge will be diverted to C.M. Recto Avenue Extension and Del Pan.

After 2 p.m., no vehicles will be allowed to enter the engagement area.

METROBRIEFS

Raped in Quezon City

RONALDO Reniva yesterday was charged before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court for allegedly raping and robbing a young widow last month, police said. Police said Reniva, 29, a family driver and resident of M.H. del Pilar Street in Pasig City, was accompanied by three men when he posed as a National Bureau of Investigation agent and abducted the 24-year-old woman at gunpoint on Mother Ignacia Street at about 4 a.m. on May 25. The woman told police that while she was waiting for a ride home, Reniva and his three cohorts forced her into their Toyota Corolla (PMA-513), and took turns in raping her. They also took her P3,000 before they pushed her out of the car, she said. Police said they arrested Reniva on May 29 when he again tried to abduct the woman on Quezon Avenue. Reniva's accomplices remain at large, police said.

Agnes Donato

Dead in Pandacan

SUSAN Joaquin, 50, came all the way from Pangasinan to be with her lover, only to die in the hands of a drug-crazed man in Pandacan, Manila yesterday morning, police said. Welder Anthony S. Acolicol, 26, stabbed dead Joaquin while she was sleeping beside her 26-year-old live-in partner, construction worker Abian Ami, at the Baseline Construction Co. warehouse barracks on Beata Street, said Detective Edgardo E. Ko of the Western Police District. Acolicol was allegedly under the influence of illegal drugs when, at about 2 a.m., he slipped into the couple's room and used an icepick to stab the woman in the chest, Ko said. Workers at the warehouse told police that just before the incident, they noticed the suspect "acting strangely, walking back and forth, peeping (inside the victim's room) through the door." When Ami ran out to see who stabbed the woman, he saw the suspect "walking aimlessly." ***Philip Tubeza***

Killed in Caloocan

TRICYCLE driver Eduardo Rivera of Barangay Bagumbong, Caloocan City, was gunned down while he was having breakfast in an eatery in the city yesterday, police said. Rivera, 32, was shot twice in the head and died on the way to the San Lorenzo Ruiz Hospital, police said. The victim's uncle, Melanio Rivera, 33, was also hit by a stray bullet in the left knee when the gunman opened fire at the eatery on Parkview Villa Luisa at about 9:30 a.m., police said. The suspect fled on board a motorcycle.

Tina Santos

Burned in Sta. Quiteria

MOTOR shop helper Vicente Gerado, 28, was injured in a fire that struck a furniture shop in Caloocan City yesterday morning. Fire investigators FO2s Arvin David and Edwin Buenaventura believed the fire was caused by welding sparks which hit a furniture set in the assembly area of the Comlife Furniture and Accessories on Tullahan Road in Sta. Quiteria. They pegged property damage at P10 million. Gerado suffered abrasions in the left arm and first degree burns in the right knee. The fire reached Task Force Bravo alarm before it was contained at 11:06 a.m.

Tina Santos

Nabbed in Valenzuela

FIVE men were caught in the act of robbing the Jan Metal Products warehouse on Masipag Street in Veinte Reales, Valenzuela City Sunday night, police said. Eduardo Asero, 31, his brother Federico, 30, and Alexander Aquino, 31, all of Karuhatan; and Julius de la Cruz, 24, of Dalandanan, and Rolando Aban, 30, of Malinta, Valenzuela City, used a bolt cutter to destroy the warehouse padlock at 10:30 p.m., police said. A witness saw the men sneak into the warehouse owned by a Lai Woo, and immediately reported it to police and barangay watchmen. Police recovered from the suspects the stolen aluminum and kitchenware products, said Insp. Salvador de la Cruz of the Valenzuela Police.

Tina Santos

Robbed in Malabon

BUSINESSWOMAN Translacion Macaraseg lost about P14,000 in cash and valuables to four armed men wearing bonnets in Malabon City on Sunday, police said. Macaraseg, a fish dealer and resident of T. Gonzales Street, San Jose, Navotas, was on board a tricycle when the suspects, in a dirty white L-300 van (WRV-110), blocked her vehicle on N. Vicencio Street in Niugan, Malabon, at 11:30 a.m. and announced the holdup, police said. The robbers took her bag containing the cash, and a cell phone, as well as her wristwatch and jewelry, police said.

Tina Santos

New Rizal police chief

THE RIZAL Provincial Police Office (RPPO) has a new director starting yesterday: Senior Supt. Carlito Dimaano, former Cebu City police chief.

Dimaano replaced Senior Supt. Arturo Tolentino, who was temporarily assigned to Camp Crame.

Tolentino, who began his law enforcement career as an investigator of the defunct Metropolitan Command (Metrocom), served as RPPO director for one year and three months. He replaced Senior Supt. Luizo Ticman. ***Nelson F. Flores***

Our Lady of Piat

PARADE PARTICIPANT. **The Miraculous Lady of Piat will grace the float of Cagayan province in the Independence Day parade that starts at the Quirino Grandstand. The float will highlight Cagayan's major tourism destinations. Archbishop Diosdado A. Talamayan, DD, of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao, invites all Manila-based devotees of our Lady to watch the parade and hold a red rose as offering.**

The celebration will also feature a cultural show, which includes numbers by the Cagayan State University Cultural Dance Troupe and harp virtuoso Ben Tion.

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9 CASS & CARY
10 STAR WARS
11 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
12 SPIDER-MAN

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2 STAR WARS
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 CASS & CARY
5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6 DRAGONFLY
7 MURDER BY NUMBRS
8 A WALK TO REMEMBER
9 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 MURDER BY NUMBERS
5 SELDA
6 PANIC ROOM
7 CASS & CARY
8 RESIDENT EVIL
9 STAR WARS
10 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

SM CITY CEBU
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1 STAR WARS
2 JIHAD WARRIOR
3 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4 SNOW DOGS
5 DEATH TO SMOOCHY
6 FRUIT IS SWELLING
7 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8 CASS & CARY

SM CITY ILOILO
3200422

1 BENEATH LOCHNESS
2 CLOSED
3 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4 JASON-X
5 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6 DEATH TO SMOOCHY
7 CLOSED
8 STAR WARS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
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1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 JIHAD WARRIOR
3 DRAGONFLY
4 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
5 LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .
6 CASS & CARY

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2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
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G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
2 STAR WARS: Episode 2
3 MURDER BY NUMBERS 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:00, 10:30
4 DRAGONFLY
5 PANIC ROOM
6 A WALK TO REMEMBER
7 RESIDENT EVIL

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 MURDER BY NUMBERS
MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 8:00 PM June 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29

GB3 GREENBELT 3
MURDER BY NUMBERS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20
A WALK TO REMEMBER 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20
DRAGONFLY 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20
40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15
5 PANIC ROOM 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20

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1 RESERVE
2 DEATH TO SMOOCHY
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
3 CASS & CARY

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 CASS & CARY
3 A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MURDER BY NUMBERS
5 SELDA

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1 WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
2 SELDA
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 CASS & CARY
5 DRAGONFLY
6 MURDER BY NUMBERS
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1 MURDER BY NUMBERS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 STAR WARS
2 SPIDER-MAN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 SELDA

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 SELDA
A

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 HINOG SA PILIT
2 MURDER BY NUMBER
3 CASS & CARY
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) MURDER BY NUMBERS
2
3
4 SELDA
5 CASS & CARY
6 RESERVE
7 (DTS) 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
8 (SDDS) DRAGONFLY
9 (DOLBY) A WALK TO REMEMBER

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 SELDA

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 CASS & CARY
3 SELDA
4 (SDDS) DRAGONFLY
5 WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
6 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL
7 (DTS) MURDER BY NUMBERS
8 STAR WARS
9 LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)
2
3
4 SELDA
5 (SDDS) CASS & CARY
6 MURDER BY NUMBERS
7 (DOLBY) DRAGONFLY
8 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 CASS & CARY
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 (DTS) A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 SELDA
5 (SDDS) MURDER BY NUMBERS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 CASS & CARY

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 CASS & CARY

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson KILABOT AT KEMBOT
Lords SELDA
Jennet WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 CASS & CARY
2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) MURDER BY NUMBERS
2 CASS & CARY
3
4 WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
5 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
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6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1 OPENS JUNE 12 UTANG NI TATANG
2 OPENS JUNE 12. DISKARTE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 SELDA
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 CASS & CARY
3 (DTS) DRAGONFLY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 CASS & CARY
2 (DTS) RESIDENT EVIL
3 (DOLBY) DRAGONFLY
4 MURDER BY NUMBERS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 CASS & CARY
2 (DOLBY) DRAGONFLY
3 (DTS) MURDER BY NUMBERS
4 JIHAD WARRIOR

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 STAR WARS
3
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 K-PAX
3 (DOLBY) JIHAD WARRIOR
4 (DTS) DEATH TO SMOOCHY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 SELDA
3 CASS & CARY
4 (DTS) WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) DRAGONFLY
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 (DTS) MURDER BY NUMBERS
4 CASS & CARY
5 LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 MURDER BY NUMBERS
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 CASS & CARY

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 MURDER BY NUMBERS
2 CASS & CARY
3 DRAGONFLY

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 STARS WARS
2 SPIDER-MAN
3 LIGAYA PANTASYA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (DTS) CASS & CARY

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 CASS & CARY
2 STAR WARS
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 DEATH TO SMOOCHY
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 PAGSALUHAN NATIN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY SR) JIHAD WARRIOR
2 CASS & CARY
3 (DTS) DRAGONFLY
4 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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DMG INTERNATIONAL

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@ Robinsons Malls

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1 THX A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
3 DRAGONFLY
4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
5 A WALK TO REMEMBER
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 JIHAD WARRIOR
8 STAR WARS
9 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10 PANIC ROOM

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1 DRAGONFLY
2 STAR WARS 2
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
5 RESIDENT EVIL
6 MURDER BY NUMBERS
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8780

1 DRAGONFLY
2 PANIC ROOM
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 MURDER BY NUMBERS
6 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
7 STAR WARS
8 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1 STAR WARS 2
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 PANIC ROOM
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 MURDER BY NUMBERS
6 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
7 DRAGONFLY
8 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 DRAGONFLY
2 WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
3 MURDER BY NUMBERS
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6 RESIDENT EVIL

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1 SHOWTIME
2 STAR WARS
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 JASON-X
5 7 DAYS TO LIVE
6 BENEATH LOCHNESS

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1 STAR WARS 2
2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
3 JASON-X
4 BENEATH LOCHNESS
5 DEATH TO SMOOCHY
6 SANA TOTOO NA

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961-5318 / 5270

1 FRUIT IS SWELLING
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 CASS & CARY
4 DRAGONFLY
5 JIHAD WARRIOR
6 DRAGONFLY

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WALK TO REMEMBER

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Friday & Saturday -
11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

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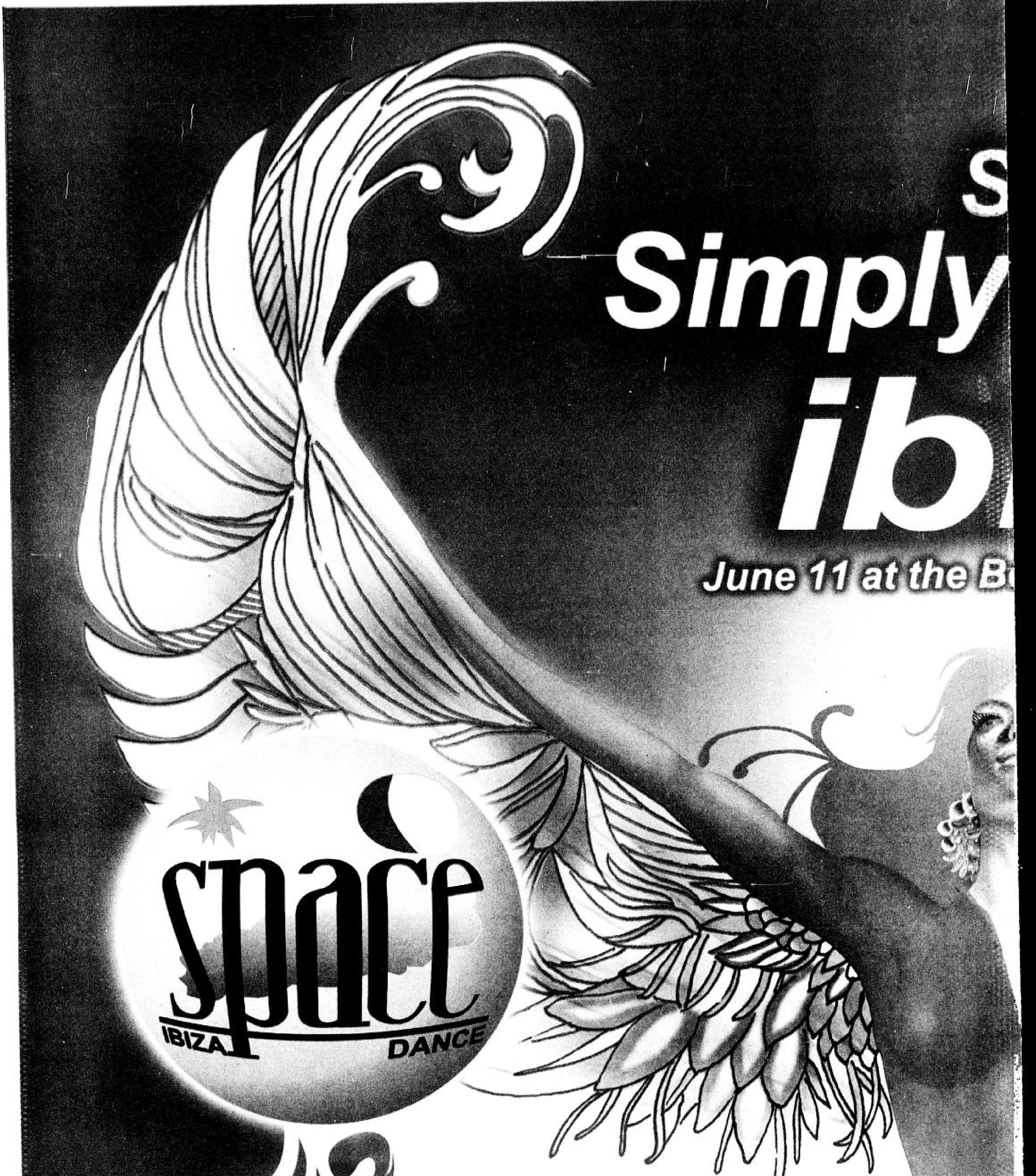
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812



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- An exclusive SMART entrance for your convenience

For White Hot Ibiza:

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- Free Simply Ibiza cocktail drinks (u
- Free henna tattoos, face painting, n
- Plus, get a chance to win loads of c
- special Ibiza logos, to join, Key in I
- then send to 233. Register now and

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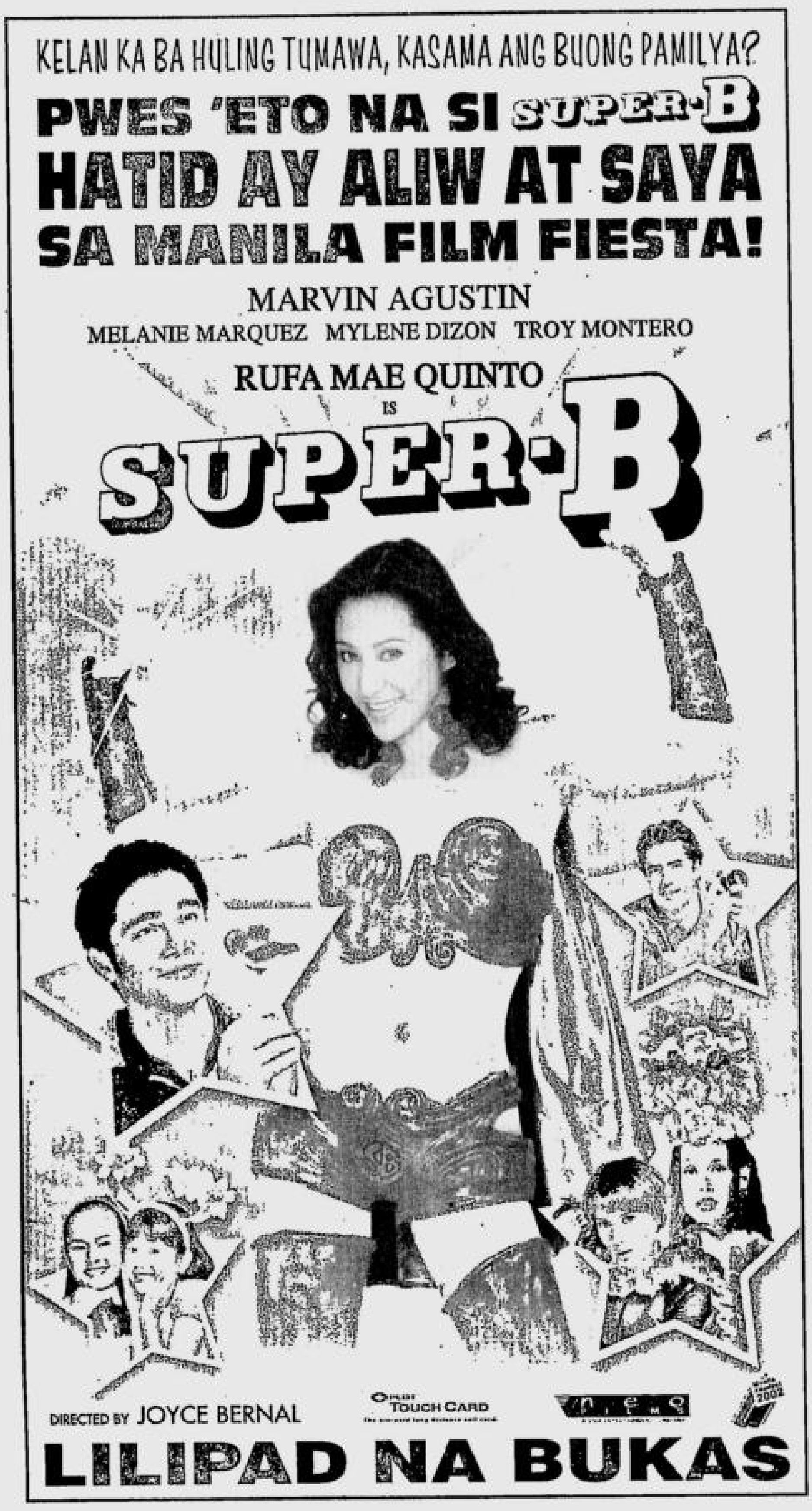
KELAN KA BA HULING TUMAWA, KASAMA ANG BUONG PAMILYA?
PWES 'ETO NA SI SUPER-B
HATID AY ALIW AT SAYA
SA MANILA FILM FIESTA!
MARVIN AGUSTIN
MELANIE MARQUEZ MYLENE DIZON TROY MONTERO
RUFA MAE QUINTO
IS
SUPER-B
DIRECTED BY JOYCE BERNAL
TOUCH CARD
LILIPAD NA BUKAS

MTRCB RATING
GP GENERAL PATRONAGE
ALL AGES ADMITTED
APAT NA BIGATING PANGALAN
ISANG PELIKULANG 'DI MALILIMUTAN
CHRISTOPHER DE LEON
DINGDONG DANTES
SHARON CUNETA
JUDY ANN SANTOS
MAGKAPATID
DIRECTED BY JOEL LAMANGAN
DUNKIN' DONUTS
FUJIFILM
VIVA
OPENS TOMORROW MANILA FILM FESTIVAL

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THANKS to the people we've met this past week who said they looked forward to our compilations of verbal boners on TV. We think our latest "harvest" will make you smile (at the very least):

Host: So, what did you think of our last singing contestant?

Judge: I was surprised! Before, I thought she could do only fast songs, but the song she did now was smooth.

Host: So, you were impressed with her versatility?

Judge: Right. Now I know that she can also do different musical genders!

(Huh?—Oh, that's "different musical *genres*"!)

* * *

Host: We're here at the launch of a new coffee table book by our good friend. Many other friends are also here today for moral support. Let's ask them what they think of the book. Let's start with you.

Guest: Yes?

Host: Have you read it? What do you think of it?

Guest: Well, I think it's really a very good coffee table!

(We're talking publishing here, dear, not furniture!)

* * *

Host: When did you learn to play the piano so well?

Guest: Oh, a long time ago!

Host: In school?

Guest: No, even before that—way back to my last childhood!

(Well, if you believe in reincarnation . . .)

* * *

Host: What is your main impression of the works of the artist in this exhibit?

Guest: I like them so much. I think there is a contagious quality to his paintings!

(What's so likable about *that*?!)

* * *

Host: What are your preferences as a performer—big venues, or small?

Guest: I like performing with a really big audience!

(Oh, audience participation . . .)

* * *

Host: Is it true that local show biz is experiencing difficulties?

Guest: Oh, yes, it's a lots hard now!

(Poor you. Poor us, too!)

* * *

Host: Is your new movie already finished?

Guest: *Tapos na tapos na*. In fact, *may pakitang-tao na nga kami sa mga sinehan.*

(*Pakitang-tao*?—Oh, movie trailer!)

* * *

Host: Where do you do your social work?

Guest: In a slum.

Host: That must be hard!

Guest: *Talaga*.

Host: Can you describe the area?

Guest: The area is *medyo* is dangerous, *medyo* is dirty!

(Is also repetitious!)

Text contest

FROM June 15 to 26, Star World is conducting its **Celine Dion** text contest. Viewers can key in ANS CDI and send to 206 for Smart and 2211 for Globe, and answer three questions daily about the channel's Celine Dion musical special, from the multiple choices given.

Four daily winners will qualify to join the grand raffle on June 27, which will have one grand prizewinner and 29 second-placers.

The text contest is timed for the premiere of the "Celine Dion: A New Day Has Come" concert on Star World on Tuesday, June 26 at 10 p.m. Replays are on June 26 at 1:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Movies on HBO

TUESDAY, June 11 at 10:30 p.m., "Clear and Present Danger.' 4:30 a.m., "Baby Geniuses."

Wednesday, June 12 at 11 a.m., "The World According to Garp." 1:15 p.m., "Meet the Parents." 9 p.m., "Patriot Games."

Thursday, June 13 at 2 p.m., "The Story of Us." 5:30 p.m., "Leap of Faith." 10:30 p.m., "Stuart Little."

Friday, June 14 at 6:30 a.m., "Magnolia." 1:15 p.m., "Random Hearts." 3:30 p.m., "Gorillas in the Mist."

'Silang Magigiting'

AT 6 p.m. today, June 11, Gantimpala Theater Foundation presents **Charley de las Paz**'s play about heroes, "Silang Magigiting", at the Concert at the Park open-air auditorium as its pre-Independence Day offering.

Stars include **Wowie de Guzman**, **Miko Aytona**, **Ermie Concepcion**, **Roeder** and **Kimberly Diaz**. Call 895-8314.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	CASS & CARY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RESIDENT EVIL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	DRAGONFLY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MURDER BY NUMBERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	WALK TO REMEMBER
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT / BEST FRIEND LOVERS
ODEON	MURDER BY NUMBERS
ODEON-2	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
ROBEN	SELDA
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	JOHN Q / BLACK HAWK
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
REMAR	SELDA
REMAR-2	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
B	CASS & CARY
C	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MURDER BY NUMBERS
CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-2	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
CINEMA-3	SELDA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JIHAD WARRIOR
CINEMA-6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-7	AKALA MO
CINEMA-8	SPIDER-MAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
CINEMA-14	MURDER BY NUMBER
CINEMA-15	DRAGONFLY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-2	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	MURDER BY NUMBERS
CINEMA-4	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-5	DRAGONFLY
CINEMA-6	A WALK TO REMEMBER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Gary V. sings at Virgin Café

SHOWS

ON June 14 (Friday), Gary Valenciano holds a special concert, "Gary V. One20ne: Live at Virgin Café" in Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

Gary will sing his hits like "Sana Maulit Muli," "Gaya ng Dati," "Shout for Joy," "Reachin' Out" and "Stop and Talk A While," the carrier single of his latest album, "One20ne," under Viva Records.

R and B princess Kyla will be Gary's special guest.

For inquiries, call 373-8766 or 926-8039.

VALENCIANO. Special gig at Virgin Café.

Band fever

TROPICAL Forest Café and Grill continues to whip up a party this month. It's band fever for the whole month of June at Banda Forest, the restaurant's bar and entertainment outlet.

Dyna Souls performs on Mondays (June 10, 17 and 24), Q & A on Tuesdays (June 18 and 25) while Human Race sings on June 11.

Party music is delivered nonstop on Wednesdays (June 12, 19 and 26) by Prime Council, with Rada and the Pork Chop Duo.

Fat Session takes centerstage on Thursdays (June 13, 20 and 27) and Route 70 Richard with A.D. on Fridays (June 14, 21 and 28).

It's Big Nite Out on Saturdays (June 15, 22 and 29).

The bands' repertoire, consists of Top 40s, new wave tunes, contemporary and house music.

Banda Forest is open 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. on weekdays and 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. on weekends.

Tropical Forest Café is at T.M. Kalaw corner Parade St., Ermita, Manila. For inquiries and reservations, call 400-7438 to 39.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING
1 A WALK TO REMEMBER
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
GP
2 DRAGONFLY
11:25, 1:45, 4:05, 6:25, 8:45
P 13
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
MUSIC MUSEUM
JUNE 8 & 15 REIGNE ON TOUR (Regine Velasquez) 9:00 PM
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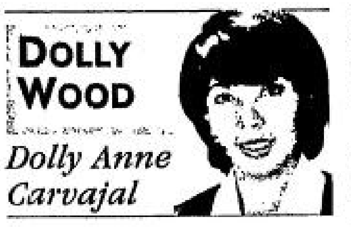
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

PANIC ROOM - R18 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS - R18 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40	MURDER BY NUMBERS - R18 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00
A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:56	DRAGONFLY - P13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05

MATINEE

Fashion show at MTV Awards



DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

ATTENDING the MTV Pilipinas Awards show is certainly my idea of fun.

The NBC Tent at the Fort was brimming with excitement as early as 7 p.m. Chic chicks and cool dudes in their MTV-ish getup were all over the place. Just shuffling with the crowd made me feel like I was a teeny-bopper all over again. So much for vicarious thrills. Besides, I never feel my age and most of the time I don't even act my age (Are you reading, Mom?)

I'm no fashion designer but growing up in show biz has somehow given me a keen eye for what clicks and what sucks in fashion. That is not to say I don't have a bad-outfit day. There are days I enjoy undressing more than dressing up.

During the MTV night, **Regine Velasquez** looked like a princess with her brightly colored gown. Passion for fashion is what **Tim Yap** and **Raya Mananquil** projected as always. **Patricia Javier** was stunning in her reinvention of the little black dress. **Angelu de Leon** exuded youthful charm with hardly any make-up on. Although **Karylle**'s earth colored gown was dainty, it's more appropriate for a debut or a prom than a hip awards night.

Kyla's tube top with flowing skirt and gold headdress was funky but she looked like she was going to a costume ball. **Borgy Manotoc** had arresting appeal with his skinhead look and coach-like jacket.

Got a chance to chat with a friend I've missed, **Martin Nievera**, backstage. Martin hosted the show along with MTV VJs **Donita Rose**, **Sara Meier**, **Belinda Panelo** and **KC Montero**.

Martin told me he's going to do an nth repeat of his phenomenal concert series at Greenbelt. His next album will feature a duet with **Brian Mcknight**. Whew! Just imagine how awesome they would sound together. Their song will definitely be worth putting your CD player on repeat mode.

When Angelu greeted me, I told her she lost so much weight. She's so sexy that I almost forgot she's a mother of two. She shot back, "Problems made me this thin. Try it! *Mamroblema ka para pumayat ka!*"

I was dazed by the opening number of the band True Faith with Barbie's Cradle, Rivermaya, Wolfgang and Cheese. They were all nominees for Best Group and played their nominated songs. It wasn't merely a medley. Their songs were made to really blend and they sounded like they were singing just one song in unison.

I hope True Faith can include that in their next album. Perhaps the other four bands can do the same to show that bands can bond.

True Faith didn't lose. They almost won. But Rivermaya was the one that got lucky that night.

Check out who the other winners are in the on-air special on June 29, 2 p.m., on MTV Philippines. Repeats will be on July 1, 6 p.m.; July 5, 12 p.m.; July 7, 9 p.m.; and July 13, 9 p.m.

Friends at the Square

BARS and nightspots come and go. Many are bold but few are chosen. My "second home," Friends at the Square (St. Francis Square, Mandaluyong) is one of the hangouts that has outlasted ever-changing fads and fluctuating funds. It's going on its sixth year now.

Friends is no trend. Regular clients can attest to the in-house camaraderie. Even if it's already dawn and you still want to talk, dance, laugh, cry etc., Friends will remain open. Waiters never badger you that it's already time for a last call.

Check out their new specialties, beef sashimi (my fave, it's sold out every night), Friends fried rice (yummy combination of shrimp and *sisig*), shrimp in a basket and sizzling chicken curry.

Friends has Open Microphone Acoustic Monday Nights, Wow Nights (Women on Wednesdays) with the Groove Band, the Kaktooz band on Fridays, the I-AXe Band on Saturdays. No entrance fee and no cover charge on all nights.

Tuesdays and Thursdays have no bands so you can just dance the night away to the cool mix of techno beats. And on Sundays, you can come in shorts and just relax and listen to soft senti songs.

Happy hour on M-W-F is 5-8 p.m., when any local beer is P24.

Come join the FBI (Friends' Bureau of Intoxication)!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

Celebrity storytellers at Enchanted Kingdom

RAYMUNDO

ACTION prince Mark Anthony Fernandez and sultry award-winning actress Ina Raymundo will be the featured celebrity storytellers at the Discovery Workshop of Enchanted Kingdom on June 12 and 23, 4:30 p.m.

Celebrity storytelling is a traditional activity of the world-class theme park, where regular guests as well as the park's beneficiaries (composed mostly of less fortunate children from various foundations) enjoy interacting with celebrity storytellers.

At EK's celebrity storytelling, children learn about true virtues as they watch their favorite celebrities tell and re-tell well loved tales with matching colorful production numbers staged by EK talents.

Until June 23, Enchanted Kingdom will be open Wednesdays to Fridays, 2 to 10 p.m.; and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For the rainy season, new park schedules will be implemented. From June 28 to Aug. 18, the park will be open on Fridays at 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Tickets are also available at all Ticketworld outlets. For inquiries, call 830-2111 to 17 (Makati office) or 843-6073 to 77 (Sta. Rosa, Laguna).

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ANG PINAKABAGONG HEARTTHROB IN SEARCH FOR A PERFECT MATCH
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I THINK I'M IN LOVE
PIOLO
Directed by MARYO J. DELOS REYES
GLORIA ROMERO LUIS GONZALES
JOSELLE NAVA JAM MELENDEZ STEFANO MORI LORENZO MARA MICHELLE BAYLE NANCY CASTIGLIONE
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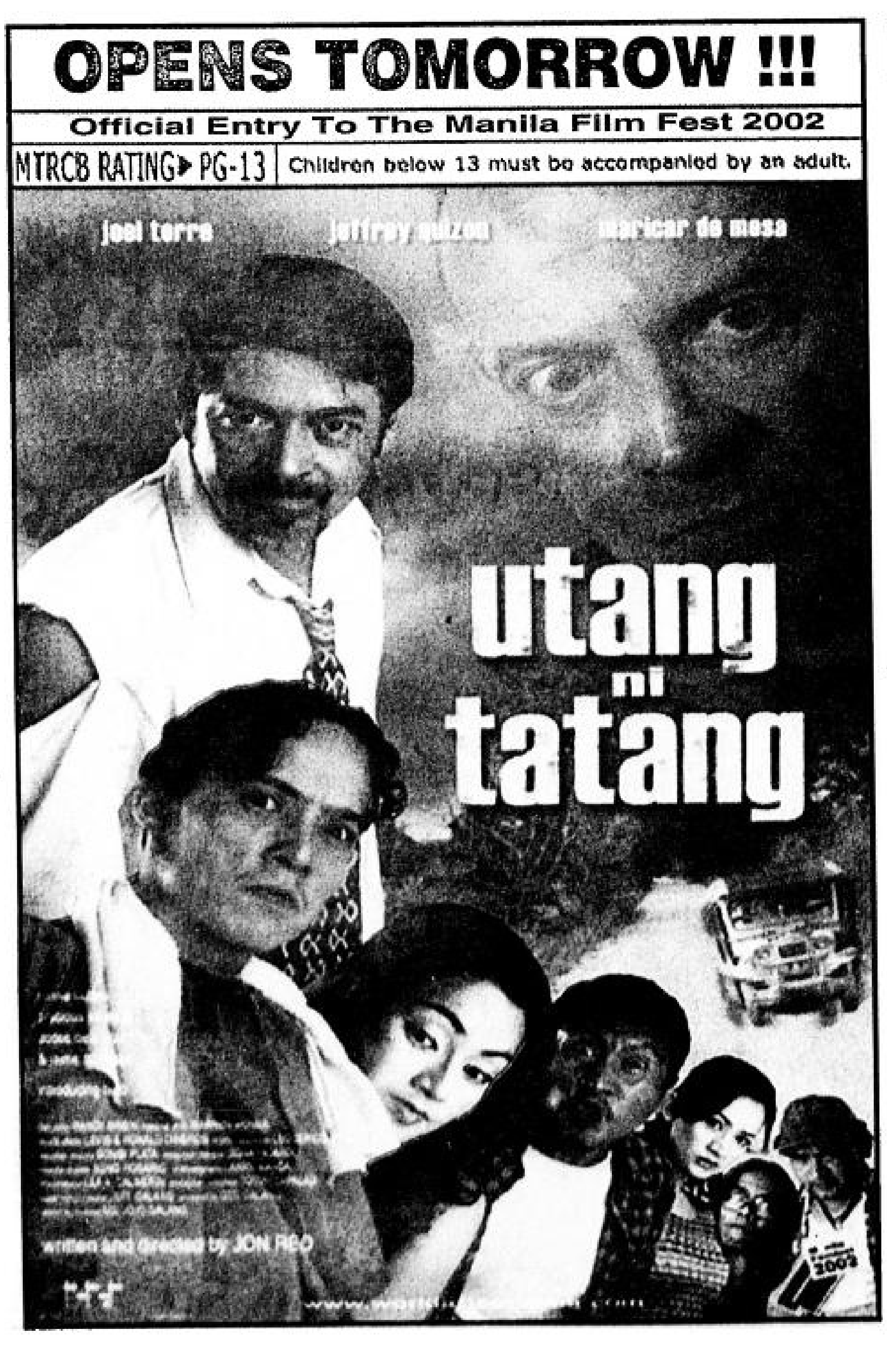
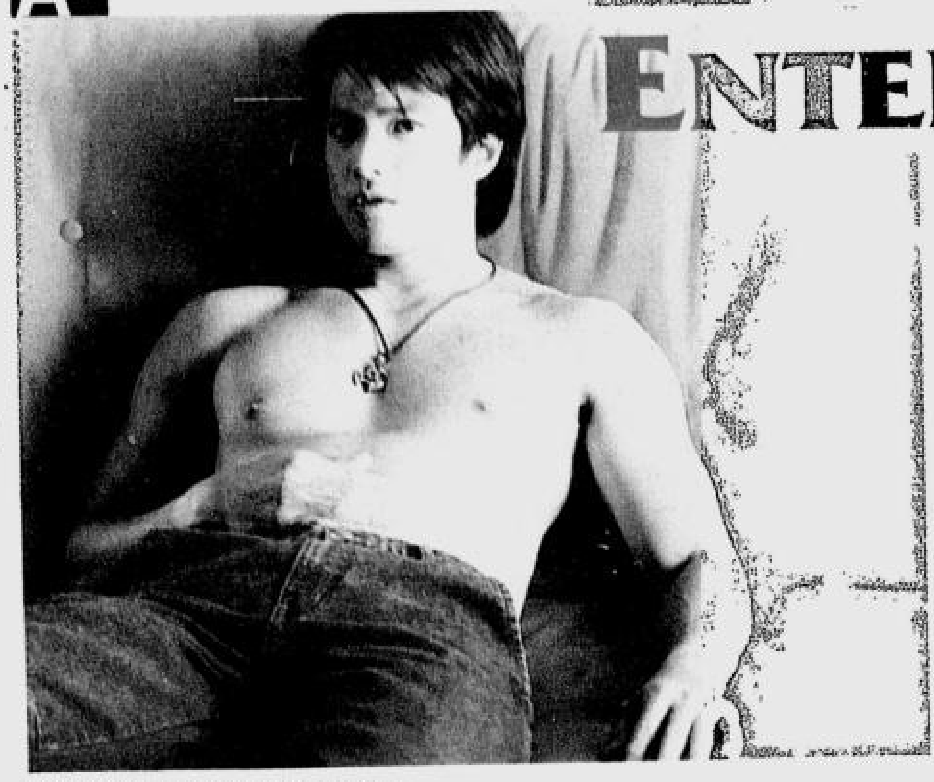


OPENS TOMORROW !!!
Official Entry To The Manila Film Fest 2002
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
joel torre jeffrey quizon maricar de mesa
utang ni tatang
written and directed by JON RED

MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
RUDY FERNANDEZ
ARA MINA
ang buhay ng tao ay parang sugal...
may nananalo...
may natatalo...
kanya-kanyang...
DISKARTE
Tirso Cruz III
Emilio Garcia
Roy Alvarez
Joonee Gamboa
John Arcilla
&
Karen Montelibano
MAVERICK
DIRECTED BY EDGARDO "BOY" VINARAO
OPENS TOMORROW

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**



DIETHER OCAMPO in Bench denims

'The most daring'

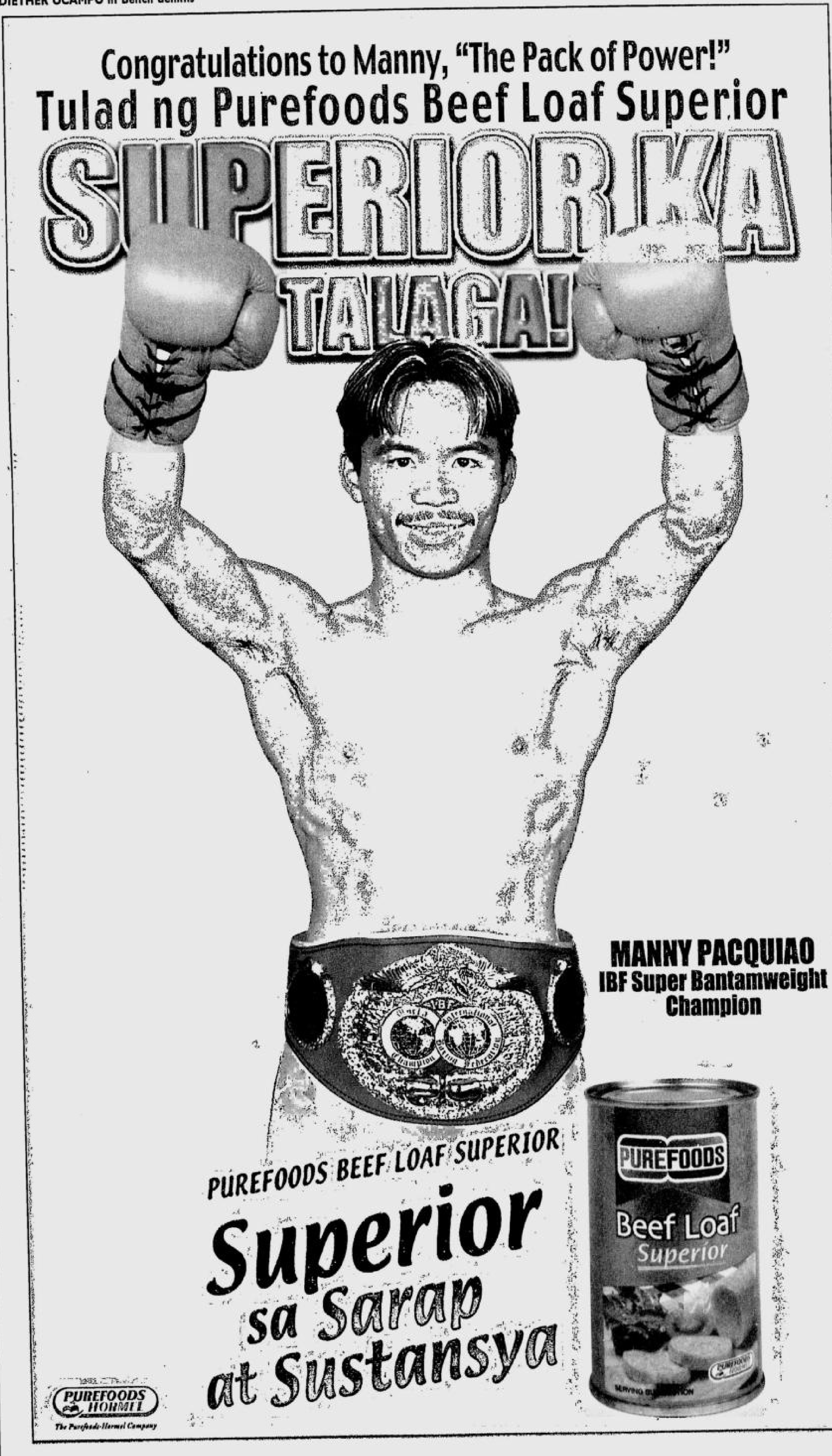
WHO wouldn't want to see Richard Gomez, Jomari Yllana, Borgy Manotoc, Diether Ocampo, Wendell Ramos, Marc Nelson, Robby Mananquil, Antonio Aquitaña, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Assunta de Rossi, Amanda Griffin, and Aya Medel, among many other beautiful faces and bodies, in various stages of undress?

They and about 70 more are expected to draw the crowds to the Araneta Coliseum on Friday, June 14, in "One Night Only," the Bench underwear and denim show.

The much-ballyhooed show is a follow-up to "Brief Encounters," the all-underwear Bench show two years ago.

To make sure that more people come to watch this time, the new show's organizers say viewers should be 18 years old and above. And its publicists describe it as "the most fashionable, most entertaining, and most daring."

The Bench underwear and denim show will also be staged in Cebu's Waterfront Hotel on July 6.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ASSUNTA DE ROSSI in Bench undies

Judge sides with Woody

NEW YORK — A judge said that Woody Allen's film producers wrongly interpreted contracts with the comic director and that the jury would be instructed accordingly in Allen's $12 million lawsuit over the films' profits.

Justice Ira Gammerman said Friday he disagreed with the defendants' position. "The one-picture agreements are not part of the three-picture agreement," he said.

He said he would tell the jury there was no written extension to the three-picture agreement and the jurors should consider the parties' intent in the one-picture deals. The case is scheduled to resume Monday.

Allen is suing former producer, Jean Doumanian, and her boyfriend and business partner, Jacqui Safra, saying they cheated him out of profits on eight movies since 1993.

To compute profits on the movies, Doumanian and Safra subtracted the losses of poorly performing films from the earnings of the winners, deducted expenses and then arrived at the "adjusted gross proceeds."

Allen contends he, Doumanian and Safra agreed upon this method in their contract for his first three movies only, and no others.

Doumanian and Safra say each of the later one-picture deals extended the terms of the first contract.

The eight movies are "Bullets over Broadway," "Mighty Aphrodite," "Everyone Says I Love You," "Deconstructing Harry," "Wild Man Blues," "Celebrity," "Sweet and Lowdown" and "Small Time Crooks." ***AP***

New Affleck movie continues to make millions at the tills

LOS ANGELES — "The Sum of All Fears" thrilled weekend movie goers across North America and was expected to add another $18.7 million to its take to remain in first place at the box office, according to Sunday figures.

The terrorist thriller film based on the Tom Clancy novel has raked in about $61.7 million in its two weeks in release, according to the Encino-based Exhibitor Relations Co Inc.

Starring Hollywood heartthrob Ben Affleck and veteran actor Morgan Freeman, "Sum" depicts a nuclear attack on Baltimore, Maryland, and was filmed before the September 11 attacks on US targets.

In second place was "Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood," with an expected gross of $16.3 million in its debut, followed by "Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones" ($13.8 million), "Bad Company" ($10.5 million) and "Spider-Man" ($10 million).

Altogether, "Spider-Man" has grossed an estimated $370.1 million in six weeks in release.

Rounding out the top 10 were "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" ($9.4 million), "Undercover Brother" ($7.3 million), "Insomnia" ($5.8 million), "Enough" ($3.6 million) and "About a Boy" ($2.7 million). ***AFP***

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BUSINESS
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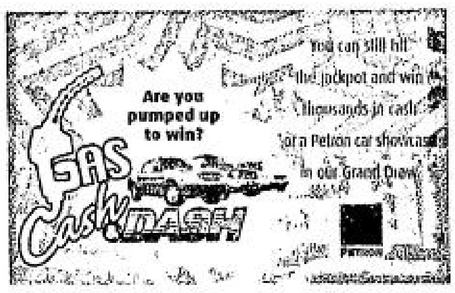
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First Pacific threatens to cut off MVP in PLDT meet

T-bill yields up slightly

/ B5

By Doris C. Dumlao
and Elena R. Torrijos

FIRST Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong has told its executive chair, Manuel V. Pangilinan, that the proxies of the controlling Hong Kong group will be revoked and taken away from him in this afternoon's stockholders' meeting of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. if Pangilinan, who is also PLDT president and CEO, would block the impending takeover by taipan John Gokongwei.

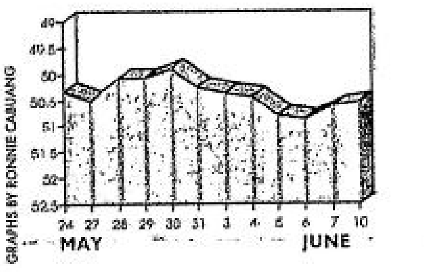
The First Pacific letter, sent to Pangilinan on Friday, pointedly referred to Pangilinan's possible conflict of interest, amid rumors that the latter was set to forsake his Hong Kong principals and join a management buyout proposal being readied by the local PLDT shareholders led by PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco.

"I should draw your particular attention to the fact that, in adhering to the protocol on 'conflict of interest,' the protocol envisages the immediate transfer to a designee of the company, who shall be Ronald A. Brown, or in the alternative, the immediate revocation of any and all proxies granted in your favor . . .," said

FIRST/ B5

INDICATORS

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

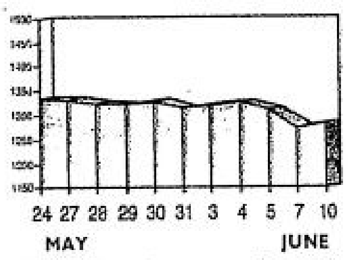
₱ 50.56 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 10, 2002

¥ 124.76 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 10, 2002

GOLD: $322.40/322.90
per ounce Hong Kong,
June 10, 2002

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares up 0.8%

SHARES closed higher yesterday on a technical recovery led by blue chip San Miguel, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 9.93 points, or 0.8 percent, at 1284.80, after falling 2.1 percent Friday.

San Miguel "B" rose P3, or 5.6 percent, at P57 on bargain hunting, partly inspired by talk that the beer company is setting its sights on tycoon John Gokongwei's food manufacturing unit, Universal Robina.

Universal Robina was not traded Monday. It last closed at P4.50.

Analysts said it would be surprising if Gokongwei decides to give up the cash-rich Universal Robina, but added that he may need cash as he prepares for a possible entry as a major shareholder of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Gokongwei's group and First Pacific of Hong Kong agreed last week to form a joint venture, allowing Gokongwei to acquire the other's 24.4-percent stake at PLDT and 50.4 percent in property developer, Bonifacio Land.

"The market rebounded from last Friday's sharp fall," said KGI Securities trader Lawrence de Leon. "Most of the blue chips were boosted by bargain hunting." *AP*

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Wife of the smile in your face

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

LET'S say this cute administration of Gloriaetta can have its way with the Commission on Appointments. Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez, wonder of all wonders, even gets his confirmation. Question: Can the opposition ever wipe the smile off its face?

I heard that, if and when the CA finally confirms Bebot, the opposition will have to throw a big celebration party, and then they will have to continue on celebrating thereafter, but only until May 2004.

For such is the thinking among the groups who are plotting--indeed, they will do anything—to dethrone Gloriaetta in 2004. They will have a field day hitting her administration, each and every day for the next two years, courtesy of the famous affair of Bebot with Piatco.

That's the company, as you know, building the Naia Terminal 3. Originally, it was estimated to cost only $350 million. Reports from Germany now put the cost at $600 million. This is the one question in everybody's mind: Where did all that money go?

What do you say, if anybody in the government goes into a similar contract ever again, right away maybe we should send the Pasay police? Just kidding.

* * *

LAST year, the opposition filed a resolution, seeking an investigation of the Terminal 3 project by the Senate blue ribbon committee. Chair of the committee at that time was Sen. Joker Arroyo, who was then aligned with this cute administration.

In the CA, more names are coming up as Piatco "consultants" who are paid handsomely for doing nothing. For example, a certain Richard Gaw. The man supposedly got a 3-percent commission in a huge contract with Piatco.

But up to now, the blue ribbon committee sits on the resolution. Thus, if the opposition succeeds in taking control of the Senate, you can expect them to pry open the Piatco project. You can just imagine what they intend to discover--by hook or by crook!

In business, moreover, word goes around that Bebot is the *compadre* of Piatco's Jeff Cheng, who in turn claims to be the *compadre* of somebody very close to this cute administration.

See, ma'am, they're already speculating on such a tangled web of connections to Gloriaetta. From now until May 2004, no wonder, the opposition intends to have a favorite political whipping boy in Bebot. You can just wonder to whom all their attacks will lead.

Politics being what it is, meaning, well, it is dirty, and not only that, it also stinks, the opposition is going to enjoy using the Bebot angle. Remember, there are more than 7 million OFWs. For the Piatco terminal fee, bear in mind, each of them pays double.

You can just imagine what they will think, every time they use the Piatco terminal, knowing that Bebot got all sorts of support from this cute adminis[illegible]n of Gloriaetta. And what is that I see i[illegible]ce of the opposition? Just the wife of a [illegible]mile! For now!

* * *

TODAY, in the annual stockholders meeting of P[illegible]body expects fireworks. These will com[illegible]much later, maybe in a few more months. Expect a status quo in the PLDT board today. All of the 13 board members will keep their seats.

Lance Gokongwei, president of JG Summit, who happens to be the only son and heir apparent of taipan John Gokongwei Jr., already said as much.

Still to be formed is that joint venture between the Gokongwei group and First Pacific of Hong Kong. It is this new firm that will absorb the PLDT and the Metro Pacific holdings of First Pacific.

I guess the fireworks will start when the Gokongwei group is set to force a takeover of PLDT from the present board and management.

For one, the board has passed a resolution saying they will not allow anybody to do any "due diligence" on the company. Is that legal? Can the board disallow a stockholder (i.e. First Pacific) of the company from selling out, which always requires due diligence on the part of the buyer?

What's suprising is the silence of PLDT president and CEO Manny Pangilinan, despite the earthshaking news about the Gokongwei group takeover.

Apparently, his principals in Hong Kong kept the deal a secret--even to Manny. Lately, he was also disowned by First Pacific. To almost everybody in business, the relationship between Manny and the Salim group of Indonesia is finished.

The only question now is, what is Manny's next move? Can he raise enough funds to outbid the Gokongwei group? I heard somebody in PLDT called up a guy who is loaded because he just sold some interests overseas. The answer, I heard, was "NO."

* * *

BUT even in Congress, the Gokongwei group is bound to find trouble--or what we know as "inquiry" in aid of whatever. The group owns Digitel, which bought the telephone franchise for the entire Luzon from the government.

Digitel still has not paid for the deal, by the way, which at one time reached P40 billion. Congressmen are dying to know what happened to the arrangement. It was fixed, it seems, also during the time of Kuya Eddie. Tsk, tsk, tsk. When it rains, it pours!

Now, the Gokongwei group is set to take over the P300-billion company PLDT. It's not bad for somebody who built a business empire from scratch. John Gokongwei actually started to work at the age of 13 when his father died. Being the first born, he had to take care of the family.

But I thought he already retired. That's retirement for him—buying multibillion-peso companies.

To me, anyway, Gokongwei is the poster model of business greed. When he sees an opportunity, he tries to grab it. He also tried to buy back Equitable-PCI Bank at a much reduced price than what he got when he sold his holdings in the bank.

But this time I guess there's a question of government policy. We want to go big into ICT. For this business we must use telephones, because it is really hard to use smoke signals.

Now is it good, better or best for us to have PLDT and Digitel, for instance, under one roof? They may be in different rooms, but they are in the same house.

CAPITAL BUILD-UP

UCPB seeks immediate gov't action

By Elena R. Torrijos

UNITED Coconut Planters Bank is seeking immediate government action on a proposed memorandum of agreement to shore up the health of the bank.

UCPB chair and chief executive Eduard Go said he hoped that the government would approve the MOA as soon as possible so that the bank could begin to negotiate with potential investors who could infuse as much as P10 billion into the bank.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government, as early as two months ago, was given the proposed MOA for signing by parties to the UCPB ownership dispute but had given it to a lawyer for review.

The lawyer, reportedly Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz, has been taking his time passing judgment on the urgent measure despite the bank's pressing need for fresh capital.

Other parties to the proposed MOA, including the group of San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and some farmers' groups, have agreed to sign the MOA, so only the government has been delaying the rehabilitation of the bank, INQUIRER sources said.

In the meantime, UCPB insiders said that Go has had to contend with interference from some alleged appointees of Cruz.

They said UCPB bank directors Ramon Arceo Jr., Helen Osias and Rolando Golez wanted to reduce the power of the bank chair and chief executive.

The three directors attempted to railroad in the bank's scheduled board meeting last May 31 new items not on the approved agenda, the sources said.

A source said that the items centered on reducing the power of the chair and CEO and increasing the power of the board and of the executive committee in which Osias, Arceo and PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza sit in.

Go, a veteran banker highly regarded in financial circles, would not comment on the issue but sources familiar with the matter said that Go simply refused to convene the scheduled board meeting.

Meanwhile, a week after the aborted board meeting, reports quoted PCGG Commissioner Victoria Avena as saying the board was holding a special board meeting that day to discuss the capitalization of the bank.

However, Go did clarify that he did not call for such a meeting. UCPB directors received a notice of the meeting and subsequent cancellation of the meeting.

Avena and Carranza have shown an alliance with the group of Osias and Arceo, ex-PCI bankers.

The two were among those who signed a document moving to include new items on the aborted board meeting on May 31.

Sources said that some of the directors who have long been in the private sector wanted to have control over the sale or disposal of as much as P20 billion of the bank's real and other property owned or acquired (Ropoa) by eliminating bank formula on bid pricing and giving the approving power to the executive committee and/or board.

In an interview, however, Carranza said that directors wanted "to clarify levels of authorities."

He said it was "not accurate" to say that the matters the directors wanted to discuss were the reduction of the power of the chair and CEO and increase in the power of the board/excom because parameters were already set in the bank's manual of authority.

"It's just a matter of clarifying the meaning of manual of authority," Carranza said. "These matters have already been discussed out in the board meeting (May 30) so there will be a board meeting (this month) to adopt them formally. It will just be a formalization that will happen in the coming meeting."

In the meantime, however, the power struggle has sidelined efforts of bank management led by Go to recapitalize the bank, one UCPB officer said.

UCPB, a mid-sized universal bank, needs to receive fresh funds to meet the capital requirements of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The bank's capital funds amounted to about P5.2 billion as of the close of the first quarter this year. This was about half of the more than P10 billion in funds it had the year before.

From the fourth quarter alone, UCPB's capital base fell by about P500 million.

Salim family rebuilding battered empire

JAKARTA—Indonesia's Salim family—whose patriarch built a fortune in a classic rags-to-riches saga—is reviving its business empire, battered by the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s, by paring it back.

Salim's Hong Kong-listed unit First Pacific Co. is trying to sell stakes in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Bonifacio Land Corp., a unit of property company Metro Pacific Corp., in a deal that suggests the family's intention to focus on more stable consumer goods businesses.

After paying off some of its debts, some of the proceeds of a successful sale could be used for expansion.

Some analysts say First Pacific is likely to put the money into its food-making unit PT Indofood Sukses Makmur—the world's largest instant noodle maker—and also eye new forays into the booming Chinese market.

Useful meeting

Liem Sioe Liong, founder of the Salim group, arrived in Indonesia almost penniless from China more than six decades ago.

He started building his empire as a petty trader of products ranging from peanuts to bicycle parts. His enterprises grew bigger as he sold supplies to the nationalist forces who successfully fought Dutch rule after World War II. Along the way he adopted the Indonesian name of Soedono Salim.

In the 1950s Liem met a young officer who handled an army unit's supplies and finances. The officer's name was Suharto, and he would later rule Indonesia as an autocratic president for 32 years.

Liem's friendship with Suharto helped him as he ultimately forged a conglomerate spanning dozens of industries around the globe, often in partnership with Suharto's children.

But since Suharto was pressured from power four years ago, the Salim group has had to face Indonesia's devastating downturn without its key political ally.

In the savage May 1998 riots that preceded Suharto's fall, a mob broke into Liem's Jakarta mansion and set his portrait ablaze.

He left Indonesia and the group was taken over by his second son Anthony Salim, described by author, business consultant and Indonesian specialist Adam Schwarz as a "shrewd, tough and intrepid" businessman.

In the weeks following Suharto's resignation, a run on the deposits of the group's former banking arm Bank Central Asia—the country's largest retail bank—brought it to the brink of collapse until the government stepped in to take it over.

To pay back billions of dollars pumped in by the central bank to keep BCA afloat, the Salim group has had to give up stakes in more than 100 companies to the Indonesian Bank Restructuring Agency (Ibra).

The agency said the companies were transferred to cover the group's total debts of around 53 trillion rupiah ($5.96 billion).

While the Salim group has gone further than any other Indonesian conglomerate in trying to meet its Ibra debts, critics say the family should surrender still more assets after their market value shrank to about half their book value.

There has also been speculation the group has tried to buy back the assets at bargain prices acting through nominees, although that would violate prohibitions on purchasing any of its former holdings until all its debts are fully settled.

Selling companies at bargain prices back to former owners who originally buried them in debt would also be a blow to efforts to revamp Indonesia's battered corporate sector and convince investors and international aid agencies genuine reform is underway in the country.

One way or another, analysts expect the group to continue to be a major player in Indonesian business.

"It is only natural for the Salim family to buy back its assets. The family knows exactly how much those assets are worth, better than anybody else," said analyst Willianto Ie, analyst from Kim Eng Securities. **Reuters**

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, June 10, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	20.25	20.25	19.75	20.25	1,166,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56.5	56.5	56	56	20,800
China Banking Corp.	635	635	635	635	180
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	37	36	37	160,100
First E-Bank Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.68	1.68	52,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	67.5	67.5	67.5	67.5	100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36	37	36	36.5	337,100
Philippine National Bank	35.5	37	35.5	36.5	51,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23	23	23	26,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1455	1455	1455	1455	18,050
PCI Leasing & Fin., Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1145	1145	1145	1145	16,680
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	4,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.7	0.72	4,720,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	645	660	645	660	640
Piltel	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	1,310,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	420	430	420	427.5	85,810
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	40,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23	23.5	23	23.5	117,300
Manila Electric Co. B	33	35	33	35	765,600
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.72	1.68	1.7	1,352,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.52	1.52	157,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.14	1.2	1.14	1.2	675,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.36	2.4	2.36	2.4	68,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	500,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	120,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.72	60,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	74,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	156,400
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	33.5	34	33.5	34	676,000
RFM Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	534,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	12,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	48.5	47.5	48.5	139,000
San Miguel Corp. B	54	57	54	57	419,300
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	91,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.34	2.32	2.34	747,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	11,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.5	10	8.5	10	6,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.53	890,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	32,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.75	23.25	22.75	23	13,400
Ionics Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	458,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	55,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	300,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.5	110,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	5,140,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	5,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	7,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SER VICE					
Belle Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	120,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	4.8	4.8	24,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	366,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7	7	7	7	63,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.1	5.9	6	4,031,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2,080,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	170,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	330,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.4	2.55	2.4	2.55	8,011,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.25	0.25	130,000
SM Development Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	4,833,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.05	300,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.038	0.04	0.038	0.04	5,100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	420,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	8,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	400,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	5,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	14,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	42,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	26,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	300,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	2,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,861,610	90,790,715.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	71,037,650	149,966,085.00
PRO	20,005,000	71,927,950.00
Mining	17,120,000	499,050.00
OIL	89,300,000	471,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	199,324,260	313,655,000.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	524.31	UP 0.77
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,778.55	UP 21.27
PRO	538.43	DOWN 1.47
Mining	1,366.61	DOWN 26.71
OIL	1.29	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	750.46	UP 3.35
Composite	1,284.80	UP 9.93

NO. OF ADVANCES: 31; NO. OF DECLINES: 18; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 86; NO. OF TRADES: 1,639

CURRENCIES

June 10, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.058873	1.000000	50.7740
Japan	Yen	0.008514	0.008041	0.4083
United Kingdom	Pound	0.487188	0.460100	23.3611
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.135758	0.128210	6.5097
Switzerland	Franc	0.679898	0.642096	32.6018
Canada	Dollar	0.690900	0.652486	33.1293
Singapore	Dollar	0.591153	0.558285	28.3464
Australia	Dollar	0.604725	0.571102	28.9971
Bahrain	Dinar	2.808832	2.652661	134.6862
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.282367	0.266667	13.5398
Brunei	Dollar	0.588099	0.555401	28.1999
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000120	0.000113	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024979	0.023590	1.1978
UAE	Dirham	0.288302	0.272272	13.8243
Korea	Won	0.000866	0.000818	0.0415
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.944400	47.9510
Argentina	Peso	0.293316	0.277008	14.1158
Brazil	Real	0.399726	0.377501	19.1672
Denmark	Kroner	0.134554	0.127073	6.4520
India	Rupee	0.021632	0.020429	1.0373
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.278651	0.263158	13.3616
Mexico	New Peso	0.108798	0.102749	5.2170
New Zealand	Dollar	0.517356	0.488591	24.8077
Norway	Kroner	0.134587	0.127104	6.4536
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017648	0.016667	0.8463
South Africa	Rand	0.107634	0.101650	5.1612
Sweden	Kroner	0.108402	0.102375	5.1980
Syria	Pound	0.024230	0.022883	1.1619
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031180	0.029446	1.4951
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000937	0.000885	0.0449

Manila may struggle, but will keep '02 deficit target

THE MACAPAGAL administration may struggle to meet its 2002 budget deficit target of P130 billion based on the first four months' performance, but it is sticking to the full-year figure at this point, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said yesterday.

Asked to comment if the target remained attainable after the deficit grew to P82.694 billion for the first four months, she said: "Maybe it's not too realistic but where there is a will there's a way."

Boncodin added that the budget department would make a presentation to the Cabinet today on the fiscal situation.

"There might be some revision in expenditures and revenues but I am not in favor of changing the (full-year) target."

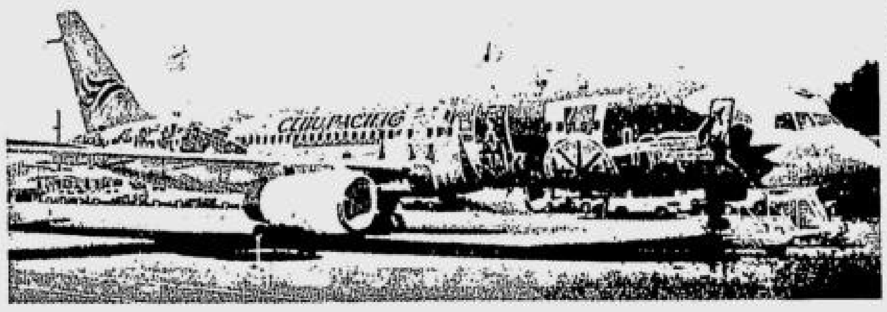
In the first quarter, the deficit exceeded the government target by more than 15 percent, and for the first four months reached about 64 percent of the full-year target.

The slippage is largely due to revenue shortfalls, with much of the expenditure for the year programmed in the first half to help stimulate the economy.

"Our problem is not the tax itself, it's the enforcement and that is what we have to work on."

She said the government's deficit target for the April-June quarter was about P35 billion and based on April numbers, "it looks like it will be a little difficult to meet."

Markets last week reacted badly to the fiscal slippage with the peso falling to near six-week lows and yield spreads on Philippine sovereign paper widening against US treasuries. *Reuters*



Cebu Pacific Air's (CEB) two latest Boeing 757-200, also service domestic routes aside from Hong Kong and Korea.

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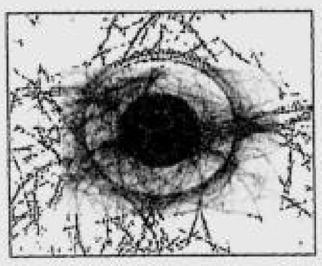
Thinning Hair



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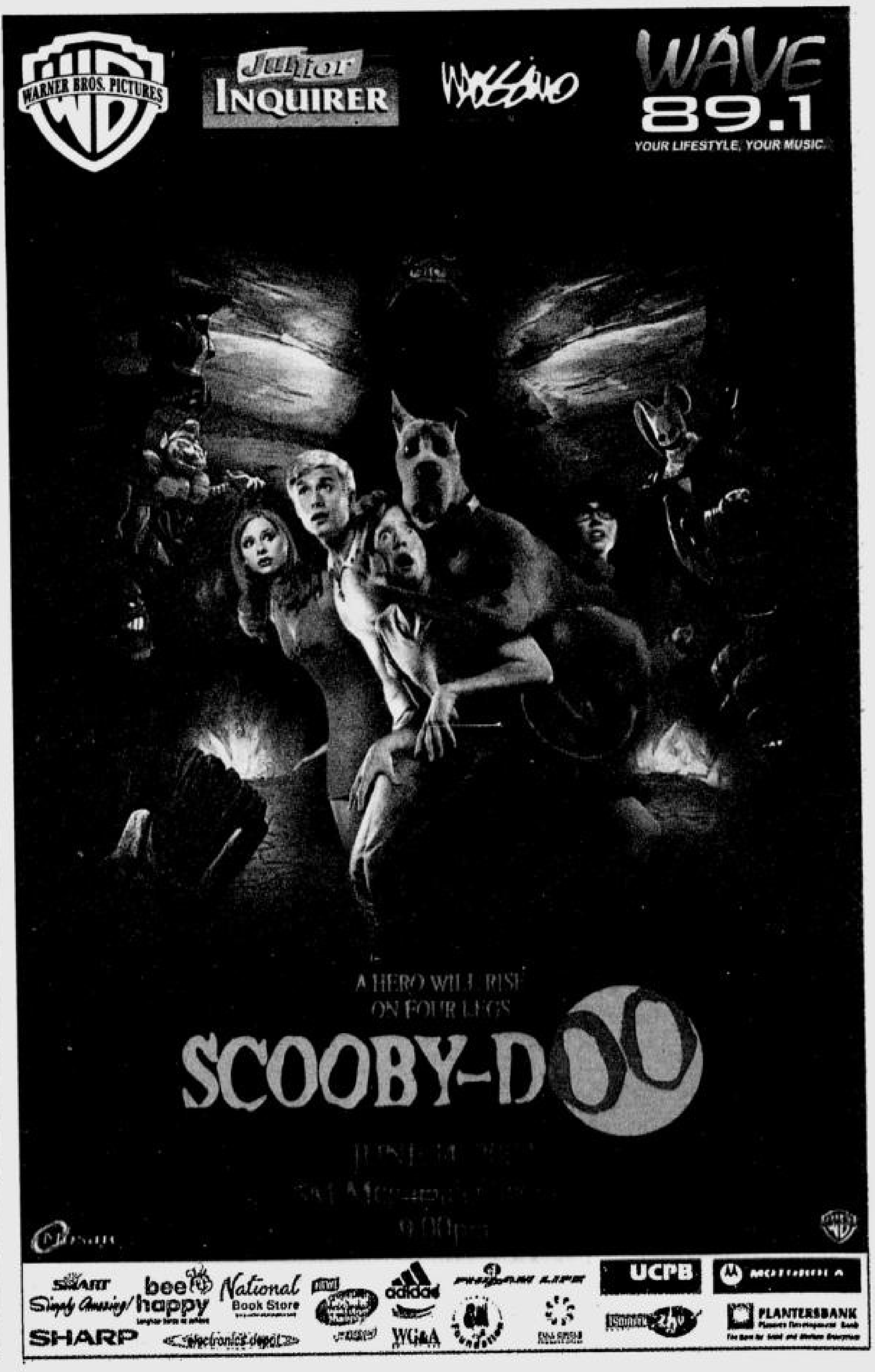

Office of the President

BCDA

Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS UNDERWRITING OF HPICs

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in the Underwriting of the Heritage Park Investment Certificates (HPICs) at Area 2 in the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila with an approximate total area of 2.28 hectares.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA. Interested Proponents can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Underwriting of the HPICs that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable participation in the privatization.

The TOR for the Underwriting of HPICs will be ready for distribution to interested proponents by **13 June 2002** at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php25,000.090 payable to the BCDA in Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m., **02 July 2002.** The objective of the conference is to discuss the property and project structure that form part of the Underwriting of HPICs, the TOR and other classifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP PHASE 2 COMMITTEE (ADP Com-2)
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base
Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa and/or Ms. Bamble L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0420 or 510-0411 or they can write at the following email addresses arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or bandal@bcda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **Chairman**
Heritage Park Committee

(PDI -- June 11 & 18, 2002)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that the following persons has a pending warrant of arrest:

Mr. EDMER LIM of Edron Construction Corp. at Room 612 Noahs Ark Building, Escolta, Manila Criminal Case No. 293491-92 MTC-Makati for violation of BP-22.

Mr. FRANCIS ENRICO GUTIERREZ of F. Gutierrez Construction at No. 92 Road 1, 1st West Crame, Crame, Quezon City Criminal Case No. 337291 to 93-CR MTC-Manila for violation of BP-22.

Any information of their whereabouts leading to their arrest, please call Omnico Consortium, Inc. Tels. 838-6789; 838-4211; 838-6828 c/o Mel De Leon.

(PDI -- June 11, 2002)

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1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting June 1, 2002 until June 16, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Father's Day Special Section on June 16, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon.
2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., affix signature and your father's name, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of June 20, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 5 fathers/winners will each win gift certificates from Rustan's worth PHP 1,000.00.
4. The raffle draw will be held on June 24, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw.
6. GCs are not convertible to cash.
7. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail and their names will be announced via print ads.
8. Winners can claim their GCs at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.
9. GCs not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI.
10. Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
11. Promo is valid only in GMA. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.

Sample Ads

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Love,
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Miko,
Isa,
Johnny,
Marla

To my Daddy, [illegible]
Someday I'll make you proud of me, just as I am of you. I love you.
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY DADIDAI
From your honey [illegible],
AUBREY

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P660 vat inclusive

Happy Father's Day Papa!
Thank you for everything.
We love you. *Moreen & Matt*

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DEFICIT CONCERNS

T-bill yields up slightly

By Clarissa S. Batino

TREASURY bill yields were up modestly in yesterday's auction after the government rejected the high offers made by banks concerned about the government's ability to meet budget deficit targets.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill yields were up by 20.9 basis points to 4.778 percent while rates for six-month and one-year treasuries rose by 39.2 basis points and 14.9 basis points to 5.736 percent and 5.856 percent, respectively.

Had the government accepted the banks' bids, the 91-day T-bill rate would have gone up to 4.867 percent, the 182-day to 6.233 percent and the 364-day T-bill to 6.735 percent.

Banks and consumers closely watch treasury bill rates as these are the main benchmarks used for computing the lending rates of banks and even mortgages.

Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government allowed the rates to go up modestly as part of its strategy to ease the pressure on interest rates, saying that it was a better option than totally rejecting the high bids.

He, however, said the government was seriously considering euro and yen bond floats to raise funds if local borrowings would become too expensive.

"We have enough money to reject the bids for the entire auction, but this is tactical on our part to let the steam off the market and let the pressure off instead of allowing it to build up further," Edeza said.

Of the P9 billion in auctioned securities, the market offered P7.087 billion while the government raised only P4.793 billion and rejected the others.

Edeza said the Treasury only accepted the "tolerable" rates and those within the range offered during the previous auction.

Edeza stressed that the government had room to reject the high offers made by the banks as the proceeds of the seven-year bonds worth $300 million were expected to come in this week.

He added that the government realized P17.5 billion in savings from interest payments and improvements in the peso rate against the US dollar.

"As of today, we have savings of P15.5 billion from debt servicing and P2 billion from the foreign exchange because our forex assumption was higher than the actual," he said.

Edeza explained that even with the government's healthy cash position, it was conserving its funds as it expected banks to continue to push up the yields of treasury bills and bonds in the coming auctions.

"Even if we have the money, we want to conserve it. We would unleash our finds when the time comes that the market would try to drive rates up by more than 100 basis points," he said.

A trader pointed out, however, that the government's decision to accept some of the bids yesterday even at high rates only confirmed the market's fears that the state was pressed for cash given its deteriorating fiscal position.

As of April, the budget deficit almost reached P83 billion or 64 percent of the P130-billion target for the year.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said it was too early for the market to speculate on the deficit especially after the finance department had assured that it would meet the target for the year.

"The market is being myopic about the issue because we have repeatedly explained that the reason for the higher deficit was because we have front-loaded the expenditures," said Edeza.

AUB, Bancommerce compete over bank

ASIA United Bank, a medium-sized lender affiliated with the Rebisco Group, is competing with Bank of Commerce for a shot to rehabilitate and take over the First e-Bank of Metro Pacific Corp.

Sources from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said Asia United submitted the offer to rehabilitate First e-Bank to the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

This is the second time that Asia United and BoC would compete head on to take over a bank.

The two banks first fought over the rehabilitation of Urban Bank Inc. The failed bank was eventually bought by Export Industry Bank.

Asia United is controlled by businessman Jacinto Ng while Bank of Commerce is owned by Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco.

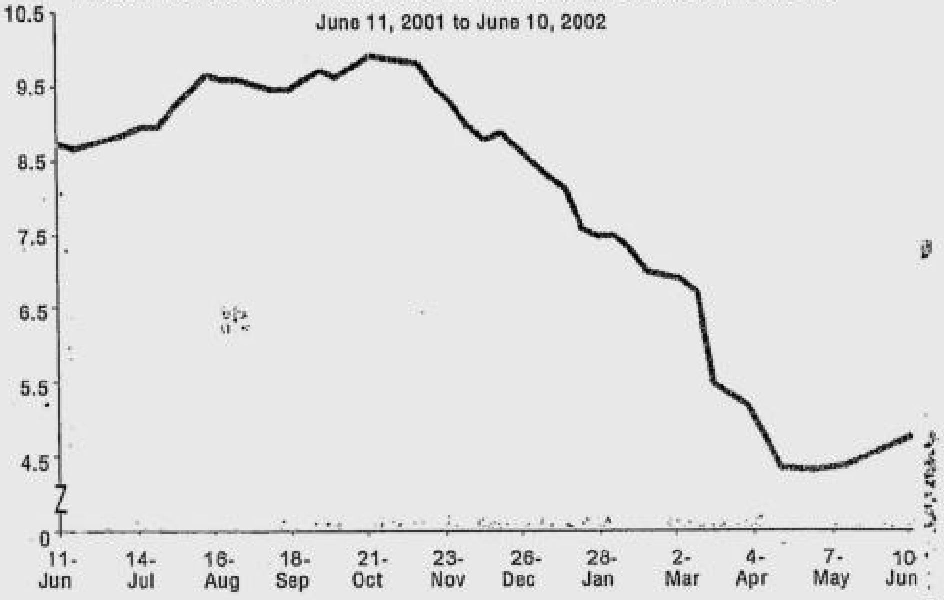
The BSP said the PDIC was still evaluating the offers but the choice had been narrowed down to the two lenders.

Formerly known as PDCP Bank, First e-Bank is in need of P2.3 billion in fresh capital.

It could not rely on main shareholder Metro Pacific for more cash as the conglomerate had decided to concentrate its resources in the real estate business and to conserve dwindling cash resources.

Metro Pacific is 80-percent owned by the First Pacific group of Hong Kong. It has about P12.5 billion in debts that it had been restructuring over the past years.

INFLATION RATES



NFA not inclined to give Thailand priority over RP rice, sugar imports

THE NATIONAL Food Authority was not inclined to give Thailand the priority over the country's rice and sugar imports saying that it should go through the usual bidding process.

Thailand asked for priority over the country's rice and sugar imports in exchange for its support of the government's plan to continue imposing high tariff barriers on sugar for three years to protect the local sugar industry.

NFA Deputy Administrator Gregorio Tan said the Philippines could not easily commit its import requirements to Thailand unless it offers competitive prices.

"As long as they give us competitive rates and terms, why not?" But Thailand should go meet international standards of quality, price and time of arrival," Tan said in a phone interview.

Tan added that giving in to Thailand's proposal would leave the government with no room to negotiate the terms of its rice and sugar procurement programs.

He also said that such a trade relationship might have adverse effects on the local farming sector and the country's trade relationship with other countries.

Asean trade ministers agreed last year to transfer Philippine sugar from the temporary exclusion list to the sensitive list of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff under the Asean Free Trade Area or Afta.

Thailand protested the move because sugar is one of its top exports to Asean countries like the Philippines.

Tariffs on sugar—pegged at 65 percent—would have been brought down drastically to at least 5 percent by next year had sugar not been transferred to the sensitive list where products are allowed to keep tariff barriers up to 2005.

The local sugar industry petitioned the government to keep duties on sugar at 80 percent up to 2010 to give it enough time to improve efficiency and become globally competitive.

First Pacific threatens . . .

From page B1

the First Pacific letter, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

Brown, who signed the letter, is the executive director and company secretary of the publicly listed Hong Kong firm.

The letter also attached a three-page protocol specifically addressed to Pangilinan, reminding him and the rest of First Pacific nominees in the boards of PLDT, Metro Pacific Corp., and other First Pacific-controlled companies in the Philippines, of their statutory obligation "to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the company."

Sources from PLDT yesterday said the group of Pangilinan was still "finalizing strategies" and would not announce yet a counter-offer during today's stockholders meeting of PLDT and Metro Pacific Corp. where he sits as corporate chief.

Pangilinan is planning to tie up with NTT, which has a right of first refusal under his shareholders' agreement with First Pacific, to make a counter-offer. NTT, however, has yet to commit funding to boost the proposed management buyout.

Other sources also said First Pacific would woo NTT, the next biggest stockholder in PLDT with a 15-percent stake, to support the Gokongwei deal and had requested meetings with the Japanese firm in the next few days.

The sources said that First Pacific believed it would have a better chance of convincing NTT to drop any hostility to the Gokongweis' entry now that Pangilinan had been quarantined from the process.

"In the past, the Hong Kong people were talking to NTT but the main representative was Manny Pangilinan," the source said, noting that it was thus mostly the Filipino executive's side that the Japanese firm was hearing.

There were also talks in the market that NTT might ask to be bought out in PLDT through a tender offer by the venture.

In today's meeting, a PLDT source said that the same board directors would be elected to the publicly listed telecommunication firm today, including Ambassador to the United States Albert del Rosario.

The present board of directors included PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco, PLDT presidnet and CEO Manuel Pangilinan, Helen Dee, Ray Espinosa, Teodoro Locsin Jr., Napoleon Nazareno Rev. Fr. Bienvenido Nebres S.J., Corazon de la Paz, Pedro Roxas, Mitsuhiro Takase and Ricardo Zarate.

In case of a counter-offer, the Gokongwei group is willing to give up its bid on the Philippine property and telecommunication interests of First Pacific.

A source from the Gokongwei camp yesterday said the group was not keen on engaging in a bidding war, assuming that the management of PLDT and MPC, in tandem with Japan's NTT, could raise at least $1 billion before the 20-day deadline to match his bid.

The source said the opposing group would have to raise more than $1 billion to match the bid, including the bulk value of the $925-million joint venture between the Gokongweis and First Pacific and the $105-million loan to property firm Metro Pacific Corp.

"We'll just give it to them and use our money for Digitel (Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.)," the source said, noting that the group would not raise their original bid.

Under the deal, the Gokongwei group said it would pay about P1,130 per share for the PLDT stake and an amount equivalent to P50,000 per square meter for the stake in the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Some stock market analysts are saying that a bidding war could benefit PLDT shareholders as the transaction price could go up.

The Gokongweis and First Pacific believed that there was no way of stopping the deal. The two groups formed last week a joint venture of which 67 percent was sold to the Gokongweis and 33 percent was retained by First Pacific. The venture will hold the 24.47-percent stake in PLDT and the 50.4-percent stake in core MPC subsidiary Bonifacio Land Co.

Meantime, the Presidential Commission on Good Government has given notice that it was pursuing the government's claim on the disputed shares of PLDT.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said that the Commission would file before June 26 with the Supreme Court an appeal to reverse the decision of the Sandiganbayan and to declare the PLDT shares originally under the name of Ramon Cojuangco as ill-gotten wealth.

He said that regardless of the outcome of the Gokongwei buyout of First Pacific's stake in PLDT, if the government were to win its case in the high tribunal then the shares of the telecommunications giant, including those now held by First Pacific, would have to be returned to government.

"Even if not sequestered, if declared ill-gotten that's binding on anybody," Carranza said.

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on June 25, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the Meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 29, 2001
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2001
5. Approval of the 2001 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Reduction of the Par Value of the Corporation's Common Shares from Sixty Pesos (P60.00) to Forty Pesos (P40.00), Resulting in the Decrease of the Authorized Capital Stock from P50,000,000,040.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares to P33,333,333,360.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares and the Amendment for this Purpose of Article Seventh of the Amended Articles of Incorporation
7. Approval of the Increase in the Authorized Capital Stock from P33,333,333,360.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares to P50,000,000,040.00 Divided into 1,054,824,557 Common Shares and 195,175,444 Preferred Shares with a Par Value of P40.00 Per Share
8. Issuance of 195,175,444 Preferred Shares to PDIC as Partial Payment for P7,807M Worth of Previously Contracted Loans
9. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
10. Election of Directors
11. Appointment of External Auditor
12. Other Matters
13. Adjournment

Minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors starting from June 26, 2001 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary. In addition, copies of the minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting will also be made available at the meeting venue for stockholders who wish to examine the minutes but who were unable to do so prior to the meeting.

Only stockholders of record as of May 31, 2002 will be entitled to vote at this meeting. For this purpose, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from June 17 to June 24, 2002.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a **PROXY** instrument to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. of June 20, 2002. A proxy instrument shall conform with the requirements of Sec. 58 of the Corporate Code, and shall be affixed with a duly paid documentary stamp tax in accordance with Sec. 192 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

Pasay City, May 17, 2002

MA. CECILIA L. PESAYCO
Corporate Secretary

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Gulf Air to lay off staff

MANAMA—Gulf Air will lay off staff as part of a cost-cutting customer-focused restructure plan to turn around the financially-strapped airline in three years, its new president announced Sunday.

"The battle to rebuild our airline starts today," Australian James Hogan told a press conference.

"My key priorities will be to restore confidence in the market and recover lost business opportunities," he said. "The key of focus will be marketing and sales."

But the "renewed commitment to put the airline back on a profitable track" means the regional carrier will "have to reduce staff numbers and focus on cost to ensure a more competitive structure for the airline," Hogan warned.

The plan, drawn up with US-based aviation consultants Simet Hellielson and Eicher, envisages a "three-year turn around for Gulf Air," said Hogan, previously CEO of Ansett Airlines in Australia and BMI British Midlands Airways.

It includes the creation of an executive graduate program, the appointment of senior international airline executives to provide specialist support and a newly formed service division to improve cost and efficiency in airport, in-flight, catering and services delivery. *AFP*

Fall in Japan wholesale prices underscores weak economy

TOKYO—Japan's wholesale prices fell in May from a year earlier, reflecting the weakness of the world's second-largest economy that has been in the grip of deflation for years and shows few signs of escaping stubbornly falling prices.

Bank of Japan data on Monday showed the wholesale price index (WPI) dropped 1.2 percent in May from a year earlier but was unchanged compared to the previous month.

Wholesale prices are susceptible to exchange rates and commodity prices so any strength in the WPI would be further eroded by the recent rise of the yen, which has gained 7.5 percent against the dollar in the last two months.

Analysts said it would take some months for the return to stability in the month-on-month prices of wholesale goods to filter through to finished goods via the consumer price index (CPI).

"The CPI is less sensitive to external factors such as a weaker yen or an Asian economic recovery," said Azusa Kato, economist at BNP Paribas in Tokyo.

"So given the big gap in domestic supply and demand, it is unlikely to pick up so much in the near term, and the Bank of Japan is likely to maintain its accommodative monetary policy."

That is bad news for an economy that relied on a burst in personal consumption to end its worst postwar recession with growth in gross domestic product of 1.4 percent in the January-March quarter—the best growth rate in two years.

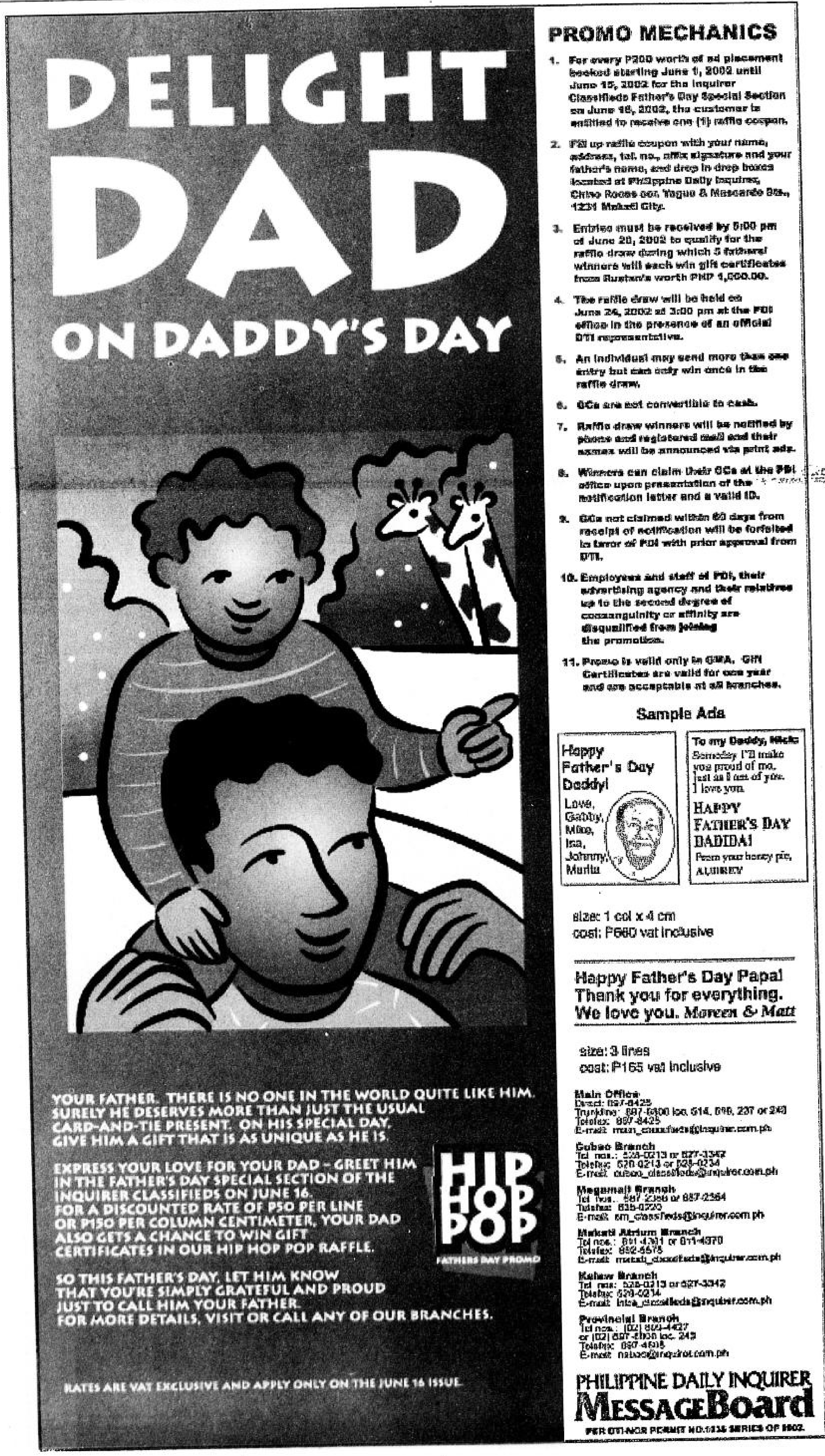
Economists have questioned the reliability of the consumption data, which cover a small fraction of the population, and expect growth to dip again soon.

It also poses a headache for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, eager to show the economy is on track for growth before he attends a summit of rich nation Group of Seven leaders at the Canadian Rocky Mountain resort of Kananaskis this month.

Tax reforms are under discussion as the next policy step to spark private spending, but talks have moved at a snail's pace.

Koizumi can hope for a good set of machinery orders data due at 2 p.m. (0500 GMT), with a Reuters poll giving a median forecast of 4-percent growth in April from March.

But analysts said overall business spending was still weak and would remain a drag on the economic recovery. *Reuters*



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PROMO MECHANICS

1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting June 1, 2002 until June 15, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Father's Day Special Section on June 16, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon.
2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., affix signature and your father's name, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of June 20, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 5 fathers' winners will each win gift certificates from Rustan's worth PHP 1,000.00.
4. The raffle draw will be held on June 24, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw.
6. GCs are not convertible to cash.
7. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail and their names will be announced via print ads.
8. Winners can claim their GCs at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.
9. GCs not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI.
10. Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
11. Promo is valid only in GMA. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.

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Jurors deliberate Arthur Andersen obstruction trial

HOUSTON—Jurors deliberating the fate of Arthur Andersen LLP on charges of obstruction met Sunday for a fourth day without reaching a verdict.

Five minutes after deliberations resumed, the nine-man, three-woman jury asked for a dictionary. Jurors deliberated seven hours Saturday without sending out any requests.

US District Judge Melinda Harmon denied the request, telling jurors in a note that if they needed a word defined, she and lawyers would do so for them. But they had no additional questions over 4 1/2 hours of discussions, bringing the total deliberation time since Thursday to 29 1/2 hours.

Jurors were to return Monday morning, moving the trial into its sixth week.

Andersen is accused of shredding documents and deleting computer records related to Enron Corp. audits in October and November last year as the Securities and Exchange Commission opened a probe into the energy-trading company's complicated accounting practices.

Prosecutors contend Andersen suddenly promoted a document retention policy to implicitly orchestrate the shredding. The policy calls for the destruction of extraneous papers and e-mail unneeded to support audit conclusions.

Andersen claimed important papers were retained and that it was routine to destroy extraneous and confidential client information.

The case is the first criminal trial to emerge from last year's collapse of Enron Corp., which was then one of Andersen's highest-profile audit and consulting clients. Andersen earned $52 million from Enron in 2000.

A grand jury investigation of Enron is continuing.

Gloria Antia, 44, one of four alternate jurors released from jury duty late Wednesday, said she would have voted to acquit the firm because she didn't think prosecutors proved Andersen intentionally tried to thwart the SEC.

"I feel like the focus should have been on Enron and not Andersen," the pharmacist said. *AP*

Boycott campaign 'disturbing'—US

CAIRO—A grass-roots campaign in Egypt and other Arab countries to boycott US brand names is "disturbing" but it will hurt Egyptians far more than Americans, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said here Sunday.

"It's disturbing. It creates an environment which makes it harder for US businesses to operate," Zoellick said in reply to a question at a press conference with Egyptian External Trade Minister Yusef Butros-Ghali.

Religious clerics, leaders of professional associations and others have in the last two months intensified a campaign to urge Arab consumers to shun products and businesses from the United States for its alleged bias toward Israel during the 20-month-old Palestinian uprising.

However, Zoellick warned that "the greatest danger" was to the Egyptian economy.

Many franchises targeting in the campaign are Arab owned and many products are made regionally under license.

Circulating on the Internet or in pamphlets are lists with hundreds of brand names to be boycotted, including McDonald's and Burger King outlets, Tide and Ariel detergents, Pampers, Coca Cola and Pepsi, Marlboro cigarettes, and Heinz ketchup.

The campaign is especially hurting business at fast food franchises, but also sales of soft drinks, as well as a range of supermarket and pharmaceutical products in Egypt and other Arab countries, industry sources said in late April.

Sales at most of the 562 fast food restaurants in Egypt dropped 20 percent since Israel's invasion of the West Bank on March 29, on top of the 5-percent decline just after the intifada erupted on September 28, 2000, industry officials said.

"It's clearly going to be hard for Egypt to integrate itself in a global economy if it tries to disconnect from the United States business sector at the same time we're trying to connect," Zoellick said.

Zoellick, who was here partly to discuss Egypt's hope to form a free trade agreement with the United States, said he was pleased that Egyptian officials were trying to explain how the boycott campaign would damage Egypt's interests. *AFP*

Software piracy rising worldwide, says group

WASHINGTON—Software piracy grew last year, breaking six years of progress by software companies to stamp out illegal use, a trade group reports.

Enforcement efforts by software makers resulted in 44 settlements with American companies in 2001.

A report being released Monday by the Business Software Alliance, which includes companies such as Microsoft, Apple Computer and Adobe, attributes the shift to growing computer markets in countries that traditionally have high piracy rates, such as Vietnam, China and India.

"The number of people using PCs in (these) countries are exploding," said the group's president, Robert Holleyman. "The numbers of legal software sales are not keeping up."

Until last year, worldwide piracy rates had dropped steadily since the trade group's first such study in 1994.

Vietnam has the highest business software piracy rate in the world, according to the study, at 94 percent. Russia, Ukraine, and other former members of the Soviet Union typically have high rates of unlicensed software as well.

Twenty-five percent of business software programs in the United States were pirated in 2001, a percentage point increase from the previous year. The worldwide piracy rate jumped from 37 percent in 2000 to 40 percent in 2001, costing the industry about $11 billion.

Companies in 17 states targeted by the trade group are paying nearly $3.1 million to settle piracy claims. Holleyman said the suits usually stem from complaints made to the group's hot line or website by disgruntled former employees of a company.

Intellectual property protections are a hot issue in the US Congress. A bill introduced by Sen. Ernest Hollings would call for every electronics device to include a "copyright chip" that enforced a particular encryption scheme approved by the government.

The measure is backed by entertainment companies like Disney and News Corp. The entertainment industry is distressed by falling music CD sales and rampant Internet piracy, including reports that the most popular new movies and music—such as rapper Eminem's latest CD and the movie "Spider-Man"—were available on the Internet even before their release in stores and movie theaters. *AP*

A woman sleeps under the cover of newspapers on a street bench in the Wanchai district of Hong Kong. More and more homeless people can be seen in the streets or parks as the economy continues its struggle since the Asian downturn. AFP

Honda aims to cut recall process time

TOKYO—Honda Motor Co. said on Monday it aimed to cut the time it takes to process a recall to one month, as pressure grows on the industry for higher standards.

Honda said recent efforts had shortened its recall processing time to an average two months from 3.5 months in the past.

A one-month processing period would be the shortest among Japanese automakers, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun daily said.

"One month is our ultimate goal," said Noriko Okamoto, a spokesperson for the nation's second largest automaker.

"To do this we are reviewing our organization and the way we oversee quality control."

Okamoto said, however, that Honda did not have a specific timetable to achieve the one-month goal.

Honda said it also intended to more than double the number of quality control analysts from around 100 at its Tochigi Research Center, north of Tokyo.

The recall process begins with complaints at a dealership and concludes when authorities are notified of a recall.

Honda's peers average four to six months to process a recall, the Nikkei said.

Automakers normally have several recalls a year but scandals including a customer complaints cover-up scandal at Mitsubishi Motors Corp. have raised pressure for better standards.

Last month, Honda said it would recall 2.57 million vehicles worldwide at a cost of 22.7 billion yen ($182.4 million) to replace a faulty ignition switch.

Honda's shares were 1.29 percent lower at 5,350 yen in early afternoon trading compared with a 0.15 percent decline in the Nikkei average. *Reuters*

Palm software aims to thwart Microsoft

NEW YORK—Palm Inc. on Monday said it has begun sending to handheld computer makers a more potent version of the software that drives the pocket-sized organizers, which it hopes will squash the advances of rival Microsoft Inc. and revitalize demand that has been flagging.

Palm, the leading maker of handhelds and the operating system (OS) software that powers them, said it has started shipping the completed Palm OS 5 to licensees and developers.

They in turn will use it to make new hardware and programmers that spice up the models with greater ability to play music and video and link to wireless networks, and also enjoy longer battery life and tougher security features.

The software builds upon advanced chips made by Intel Corp., Texas Instruments Inc. and Motorola Inc. All three are working on chips based on designs from Cambridge, England-based ARM Holdings Inc.

"A lot of our developers (in the past) were running into limitations on some of the things they wanted to do—ARM opens up a very broad range of performance capability," Steve Sakoman, chief product officer at Palm's software unit, PalmSource, said in an interview.

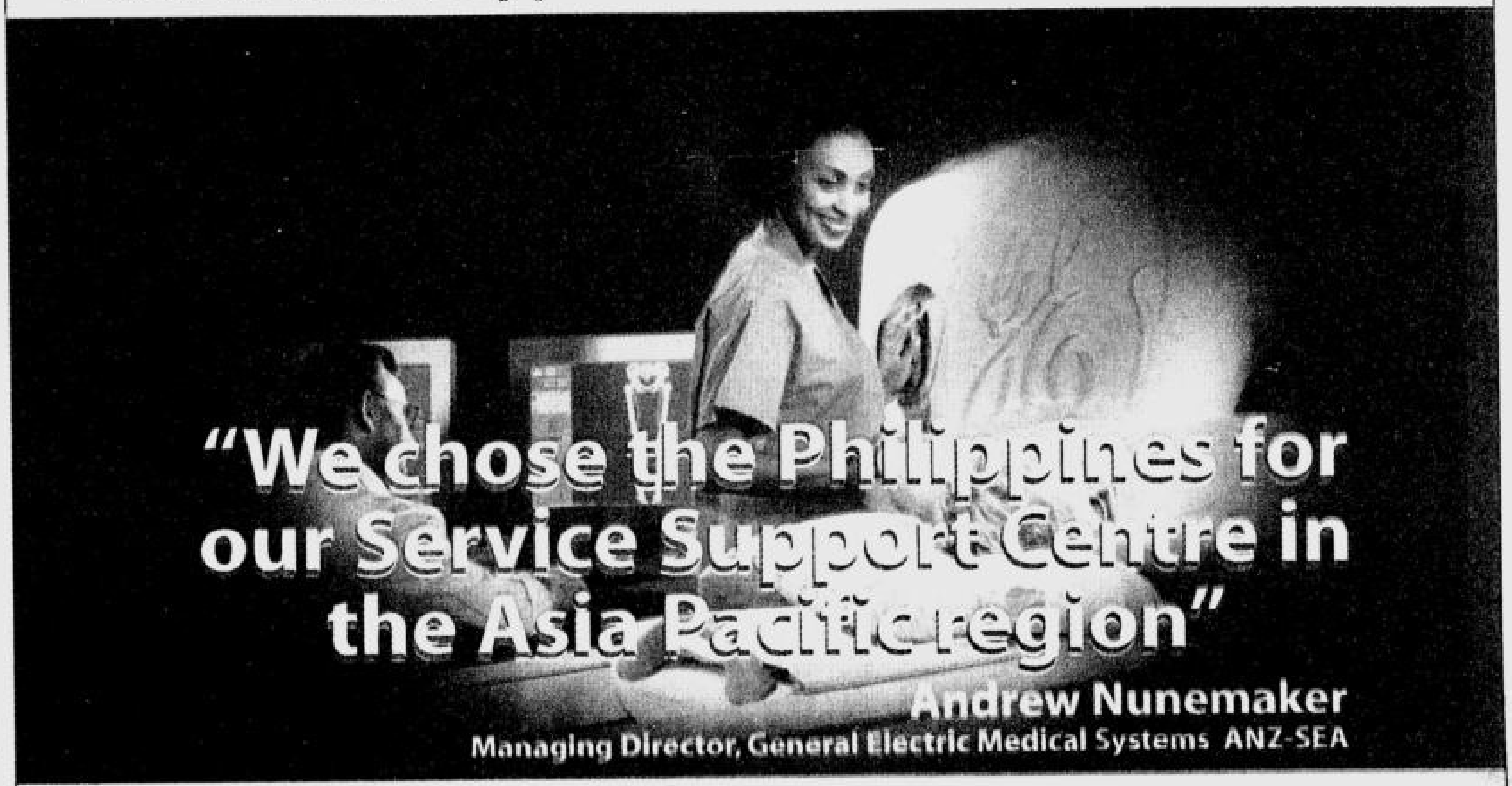
So far, only Palm hardware unit has promised to deliver this year products based on the new system, but analysts say they expect others to bring new products to market soon.

Palm has quickly created a significant market for handheld computers, with more than 23 million units shipped of devices running the Palm OS, and made by Palm, Handspring Inc., Sony Corp. and others who license the software.

Palm's OS rules more than half of the global market, to 20 percent for Pocket PC, which is made by Microsoft.

But Palm and Handspring, unlike the more diversified rival, have suffered over the past year as consumer demand stalled, and each cut hardware prices in an attempt to stoke interest in the personal digital assistants, or PDAs. *Reuters*

Faith in the Philippines


"We chose the Philippines for our Service Support Centre in the Asia Pacific region"
Andrew Nunemaker
Managing Director, General Electric Medical Systems ANZ-SEA

General Electric selected the Philippines after extensive evaluation of other locations including Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and India.

GE Medical Systems produces and services the latest in medical and diagnostic imaging equipment to hospitals and clinics the world over. Equipment that saves lives, enables correct diagnosis and assists in the treatment process.

The service team's role is critical – they take responsibility for the smooth running of this equipment, ensuring safety and efficiency for patients and medical practitioners alike.

To assist the service division, and in turn increase the efficiency and levels of support offered to customers, a Service Support Centre has been established in the Philippines. The centre provides back office processes to support the service division of GE Medical Systems, not only in the Philippines but also extending support to operations in Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

The Service Support Centre supports over 230 staff throughout these countries, with tasks including checking engineer dispatches, involving customers, and providing up to date account and equipment information.

The Philippines was selected following extensive evaluation of other locations including Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and India.

"The selection of the Philippines was based on a strong combination of factors that were unique within the region. What particularly suited us was the availability of a workforce with highly developed English language skills, along with an attractive investment climate with positive scope for expansion," explains Andrew Nunemaker, Managing Director, General Electric Medical Systems ANZ-SEA.

"The Service Support Centre has already made such a positive impact upon GE Medical Systems that we'll be expanding and employing further staff in the next few months," he adds.

Andrew Nunemaker
Managing Director, GE
Medical Systems ANZ-SEA

GE Medical Systems Asia

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the management of **Hi-Tech Business Associates Pte. Ltd.** has resolved to close its operations in the Philippines effective **March 1, 2002.**

This notice is in compliance with the requirements of SEC.

Janssen Dimalanta
Resident Agent

(PDI - May 28, June 4 & 11, 2002)

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Manila, Philippines

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY TO BID

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), an agency of the U.S. Government, plans to solicit proposals for construction of a new Radio Transmitting Station at Poro Point, La Union Province.

The following contracts will be solicited:

- Demolition of two concrete and steel aircraft hangers, several smaller buildings, concrete paving, and site utilities at the former Wallace Air Station. This contract is expected to be in the $250,000 to $500,000 range.
- Construction of a new 960 square meter concrete and masonry transmitter building, guardhouse, equipment pads, utilities, electric power feeder, security walls, fencing, site improvements, optional fuel storage and standby generator, and related items. This contract is expected to be in the $1,000,000 to $5,000,000 range.
- Construction of a new five tower antenna array for a 1.0 mega-watt medium wave radio transmitter, transmission line from Transmitter Building, and related facilities. This contract is expected to be in the $1,000,000 to $5,000,000 range.

All work will be to U.S. specifications as well as comply with local codes. All contracts will require performance and payment bonds. Only contractors who have experience with this type of work will be considered qualified to bid.

If you believe your company can meet these requirements, please submit a Letter of Interest and company profile. Include a list of similar projects completed and in progress. Submit to:

Ken Leonard, Construction Manager
U.S. Embassy, IBB/PTS
1201 Roxas Boulevard
Ermita 1000, Manila

Phone (45) 982-0254
Fax (45) 982-1402
E-mail: KLeonard@phi.ibb.gov

NOTE: This is not a solicitation for bids. Actual solicitations for bids are expected to be sent to qualified contractors within 30 to 90 days.

(PDI – June 11, 16, 19 & 23, 2002)

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For Aug 12 - Nov 22, 2002
Rm 202 Philippne College of Surgeon Bldg 992 Edsa Quezon City (SM City Annex) Tel No. 926-4526 / 456-0590 Fax No. 927-1631 email: dentistree@i-manila.com.ph

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **MARCY B. GOLDSTEIN** executed an extrajudicial settlement of estate with waiver of rights for condominium units covered with CCT Nos. 3140 and C-3148 on May 30, 2002 Per Doc.114; Page 24; Book 1; Series of 2002 of Atty. **MARIE JOY T. ABANGAN**
(PDI-June 4, 11 & 18, 2002)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Thank you very much.

ERRATUM

In the ad Re: Notice of Sheriff Sale with Extrajudicial Foreclosure Case No. 02-0225-(M) published in this paper, June 9, 2002, the name of the OIC-Clerk of Court should have been Atty. Leila Mae H. Macapinlac and not Leila Mae H. Macapagal as printed.

Our apologies

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"My soul find rest to GOD alone, from Him comes my salvation."
Psalms 62:2

JULIETA ALINGOG GUINTO

of Minante I, Cauayan City, Isabela peacefully joined her Creator on June 8, 2002 at the age of 50.

Her husband **ARTHUR**; sons **CARLO & ENRICO**; daughters **JULIE ANN, RONALISSA & VANESSA**; her parents **ANTONIO & LUZ** (†); her brothers and sister **ROBERTO & EMELYN, MANOLO & LUDY, ZENAIDA & EDDIE** and their families; her in-laws **ESTRELLA, BENJAMIN** (†), **LOLITA, CEFERINA, ANTONINA, JEAN, ERNESTO, PET, PEDRO, AZUCENA, FRANCISCA, RENATO, GLORIA** (†) and their spouses and children ask for prayers and are thankful for the love that she exemplified, for the beauty she led us all to see and believe in, and for her strength that will continually bring all of us closer to each other.

Her remains lie in state at Minante 1, Cauayan City. She will be laid to rest on Wednesday, June 12, 2002, at the Cauayan Memorial Garden after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Our Lady of the Pillars Parish Church, Cauayan City, Isabela.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

ROSARIO CARPIO VDA. DE BAUTISTA

of Sto. Tomas, Batangas, San Pablo City and Jersey City

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on May 28, 2002
after living a full life of 94 years

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation
to all those who condoled with and comforted us;
offered Masses and prayers; sent flowers and messages of sympathy;
gave donations; visited and kept vigil;
attended the funeral rites and who in other countless ways
shared in our moments of bereavement.

MAY GOD BLESS US ALL!

We, the family of the late

Herminia Baja-Panlilio

MD; FPOGS; FPCS

Who peacefully joined her Creator on May 28, 2002
at the age of 86.

Convey our profound gratitude to all those who with great love, shared with us their presence, spiritual offering, emotional support, messages of sympathy, sent flowers, kept vigil with us, attended the funeral rites, and in immeasurable ways, condoled with us in our time of sorrow.

-oOo-

WHEN MUST I LEAVE YOU

When must I leave you
for a little while
Please do not grieve
and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you
through the years.
But start out bravely
with a gallant smile;
And for my sake
and in my name
Live on and do
all things the same,

Feed not your loneliness
on empty days,
But fill each waking hour
in useful ways,
Reach out your hand
in comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you
and Hold you near;
And never, never
be afraid to die,
For I am waiting
for you in the sky

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

RAMONA DEL ROSARIO DELA CRUZ

(widow of ANDRES DELA CRUZ)

of Pasig City and Navotas, Metro Manila

Peacefully joined her Creator on June 8, 2002
at the age of 80.

Her bereaved and loving children **Edna & Boy Bautista, Oscar & Letty, Tessie & Vergel Eusebio, Baby, Andy & Tita, Cynthia, Bobby & Meldy, Butch & Marivic**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, June 12, 2002 at the Pasig City Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

"OUR DEARLY BELOVED TATAY"

You will forever be in our hearts

FEDERICO JIAO LAPID, SR.
"KA DICONG"

Peacefully joined his Creator
*and his wife the late **JUANA CRUZ LAPID***
on June 10, 2002 at the age of 87.

His loving children **FELIX & YOLY, NILDA & HOMER, BOY & IVY, ANAFE, REY & VIOLY, ERLY & REY, WILLIAM & RANCY, ELENA (BABY) & JUN, BARDS & JOEY**, and **BOYET**; grandchildren, great grandchildren; brothers **MIN, DANIEL** and **Ronolfo**; other relatives and friends mourn his passing and wish his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

He will be laid to rest at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on Saturday, June 15, 2002 at 2:00 PM.

Our Dearly Beloved

BERNARDINO "DINO" B. RAZON

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 9, 2002
at the age of 90.

His loving wife **Maria Catibog**; children **Lourdes & Dadong, Franco & Nilda, Tany & Norie, Chito & Terry, Teddy & Cissa, Marie & Jun, Beth & Erwin**; grandchildren and great grandson request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Bukal-Matinggain Chapel, Lemery, Batangas.

Interment to be announced later.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

MELCHOR C. MEMORACION

who joined our Creator on May 28, 2002

convey our sincerest thanks to all those who condoled with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, went to the wake and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and in many unknown countless ways, in the hour of our bereavement.

ESTELA MEMORACION AND FAMILY

Our Dearly Beloved

JOSE "Joe" BAUTISTA MARASIGAN

Associate Editor of NOW

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 4, 2002
at the age of 72.

His loving children **Joel & Ging-Ging, Encar & David, Ric, Manny & Alyta, Arthur & Lorna, Ariel & Letty**, and **Orlan & Shirley**; grandchildren **Joanne Abby, Toby, Lucky Boy, Baby Girl, Princess May, Angelica, JM** and **Mariel**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #7 J. Arellano Street, Industrial Valley Complex, Marikina City.

Interment will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Nativity of Our Lady Parish Church (NOLP).

CRESENCIO B. FABROS

Died in the Grace of our Lord on May 28, 2002
at the age of 81 at Covina, California, USA

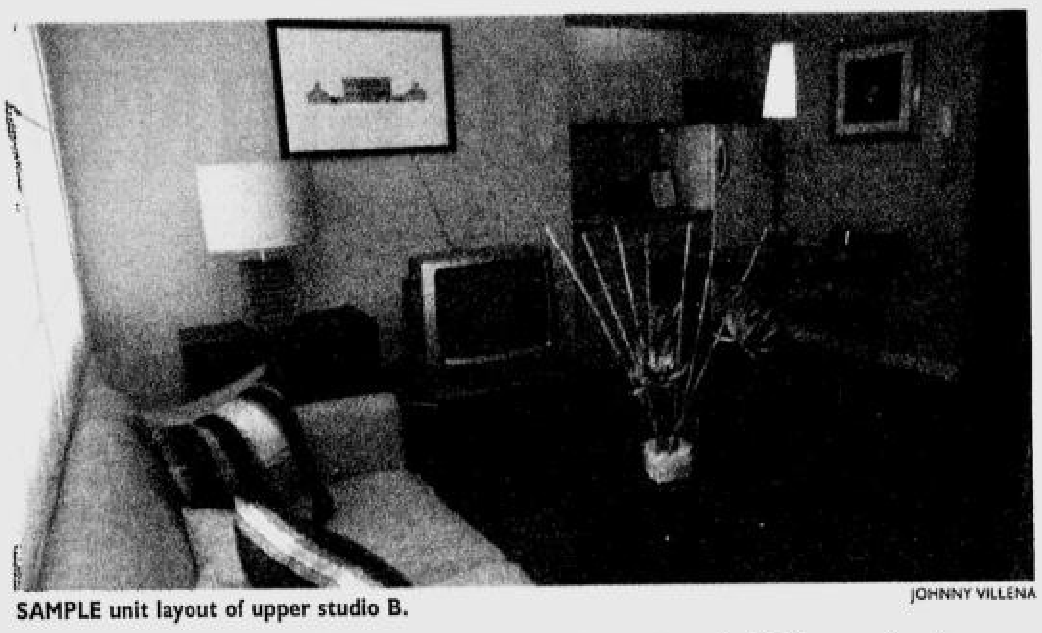
His loving children **Felix, Augusto** (†), **Bella, Ruby, Oliver, Susan, Cresencio Jr., Mike, Ferdie, Adohr, Espie**; surviving sisters and brother **Ignacia, Ising** and **Galicano**; grandchildren and relatives mourn his passing and pray for his eternal rest.

REALESTATE

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Condo developer hopes to spur sector growth in Mandaluyong

By Charles E. Buban



SAMPLE unit layout of upper studio B.

JOHNNY VILLENA

SOME years back, the idea of Mandaluyong becoming a city or even a central business district would have elicited tacit smiles among property developers. But the unbelievers then would surely appreciate the changes that the city is experiencing today.

What used to be a sleepy town is now home to many of the nation's giant corporations and some world-class commercial establishments. Indeed, Mandaluyong City has taken a complete turnaround—and property developers are now taking note of this fact.

One of those who took the cue is property developer Filinvest who initiated Pioneer Pointe, a residential condominium project on Pioneer Street. Being the first to offer this type of project in the area, Filinvest is confident it would spur positive response from other developers to come to the area.

"This part of the city has a lot of potential. Its proximity to the Ortigas and Makati CBD, Rockwell, The Fort, Greenhills and even Eastwood Libis makes the area in the center of everything. I'm not surprise if there are a number of establishments setting up here. It's very accessible since there's Edsa, the C5 road and even the Metro Rail Transit nearby."

As expected, the Pioneer Pointe project is getting a lot of inquiries mostly from the upper middle clients, its target market. "They choose more discriminately—always going for things that would give value for their investments," said Qua. "They want a place close to commercial and business centers, with access to highways and mass transport system—to which Pioneer Pointe can provide them."

Maximizing space

The 28-story Pioneer Pointe is an example of unit area efficiency. "We have maximized space so efficiently that our clients can't believe our smallest unit is just 31 sq. m—they thought its much bigger," Qua described.

Dealing with the challenge of creating an efficient yet inspiring place to live in is veteran design consultant Erfe & Associates. With its considerable experience in architectural and interior design services, Erfe & Associates has provided creative services for a wide range of projects including the Rockwell Club Lounge, Subic Bay Yacht Club, mock-up units of Rizal, Hidalgo and Luna Towers in Rockwell Center and a host of other residences and offices.

Using the model units of Pioneer Pointe, the designer was able to present interior design possibilities on how a unit will look like once it's ready for occupancy. There are three types to choose from: a two-level, two-bedroom unit; an upper studio unit; and its most affordable lower studio unit.

According to Qua, each unit is constructed in such a way that each of the four sides are almost of the same length to maximize efficiency of space and at the same time, give occupants more freedom in designing their interior.

Sixty percent of the project will be devoted to the upper and lower level studios. The lower Studio A is 31 sq. m and costs between P1.2 and P1.3 million. The slightly spacious upper Studio B (at 37 sq. m) costs between P2.6 and P2.7 million.

The project's premier units are the two-level, two-bedroom units that have a combined area of 66 sq. m and costs about P2.7 million. Pioneer Pointe features the best of high-rise convenience including amenities like a swimming pool, sun deck, children's play area, a function room with pantry and a 24-hour security.

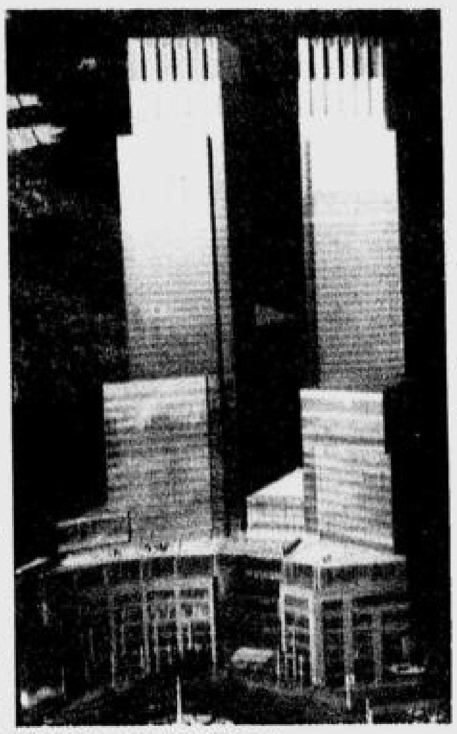
"It's practical and very affordable," Qua described. From the price range that we have, we are attracting a lot of the end-users including start-up families, soon-to-be-wed couples, yuppies, or companies since we also offer two-level office units, she added.

Shared development plan

With Pioneer Pointe, Filinvest will also be introducing the so-called shared-development scheme

CONDO /B11

$1.7-B property project eyes RP as key market



AOL Time Warner Center

A GRAND launch for New York's landmark property project kicks off in Manila on June 19 at the Shangri-La Makati Hotel.

Organizing the special sales blitz is Impact International Ltd., US-based property consultants firm that has been selling upscale property projects to the Philippine market since 1983.

Impact International will formally launch One Central Park Condominiums, the anchor luxury condominium residences of the AOL Time Warner Center in New York City.

AOL Time Warner Center, a US$1.7-billion landmark project that sits on a 1.37-hectare property, seamlessly integrates the exclusive One Central Park Condominiums, the luxurious Mandarin Hotel, world-class shopping and fine dining at the Palladium retail complex including restaurants by the legendary Jean George Vongerichten and Thomas Keller, Jazz at Lincoln Center and the global headquarters of AOL Time Warner.

One Central Park features two 80-story crystalline towers housing 191 luxury condominium residences starting on the 52nd floor and rising to the 80th floor above the AOL Time Warner Center. Target completion date is third quarter of 2003.

All units have floor to ceiling walls of glass offering sweeping views of Central Park, the Hudson River and the Manhattan Skyline. The units ranging from 1,280 sq. ft to more than 8,400 sq. ft are priced from $1.9 million to $10 million.

Impact International have managed prestigious projects in New York including the Trump International at the crossroad of 59th and 60th streets, The Central Park Place and The Collonade on 57th Street.

Developer ordered to deliver completed unit, pay damages

IN A DECISION rendered on May 24 this year by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, the Fil-Estate Properties Inc. was ordered to immediately complete and deliver in a habitable and acceptable condition and to pay damages to Lina Ang Aurelio Inc., the buyer of a unit in Renaissance 3000.

It appears on the record that the full price for the unit was paid in the early part of 1996. After almost four years of delay, the developer finally served notice that the unit "is now in an acceptable condition and ready for turnover." However, when the buyer had the unit inspected, it was found that the bedroom floors were plain cement and the ceilings and closets were not complete. The buyer refused to accept delivery and demanded that the unit be completed. After several demands that were not heeded, the buyer finally filed a case with the HLURB.

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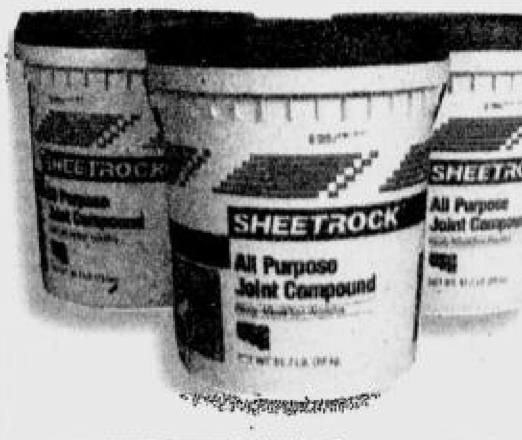

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Security systems in demand in Asia Pacific

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SINGAPORE—Asia's willingness to try the latest in technology has made it a vital market for sophisticated systems for fire safety, security and even air-conditioning or climate control devices.

Oskar Ronner, president and chief executive of Siemens Building Technologies, said during the trade press forum here that companies that want to retain global market leadership in these areas should establish a strong foothold in the Asia-Pacific region.

Said Ronner: "Asia Pacific is of major strategic significance for Siemens Building Technologies. This is where the most modern buildings featuring the latest technology are being built.

"Anyone aiming to be world market leader has to occupy a leading position here. And suppliers have to be capable of meeting customers' needs in full," he added.

Greatest potential

Ronner said SBT has identified the security systems market as the area of greatest potential for the German conglomerate and high priority would be given to support this part of its business.

Michael Donnelly, Siemens zone head for security systems, noted that there is strong demand in this region for the latest in closed circuit television networks, at growth rates faster than in North America and Europe.

Donnelly cited the controversial Terminal 3 project of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport as one of its poster projects for the latest in security systems installations.

Siemens was awarded the security contract for the facility and it covers systems for access control, intrusion, monitoring system, video surveillance with screening, baggage handling equipment, ramp control and fire detection systems.

Other projects

Siemens' other major projects in this region are the Transrapid Railway Project in Shanghai, China—the first transportation line using magnetic technology in China—and Caltex Australia.

Siemens provided the digital track to train CCTV and emergency call system for the Shanghai line, and the fully integrated electronic security system for Caltex Australia retail and industrial facilities.

The Siemens Building Technologies group is the global market leader in fire safety with a 30 percent share in Europe and 15 percent in the United States.

In security solutions, it is among the top five firms with a 5 percent share in a highly fragmented market, while in building automation it is the third largest in the world and the leader in Europe.

Climate control

Aside from security systems and fire safety, Siemens also sees a significant growth trend in climate control devices.

Siemens manufactures devices that help air-conditioning equipment manufacturers in the region improve the air quality and at the same time improve energy efficiency.

Steve Gallagher, zone head for the HVAC product line of Siemens, said the market in Asia is growing rapidly even if there is a weakness in the commercial construction sector, its biggest market to date.

"Even if the growth in the commercial area has subsided, there is an increasing market for these types of devices in the residential market, especially the high-end or luxury residential market," Gallagher explained.

Because of the warm and humid temperatures in Asia, Siemens' business in the region is mostly in air-conditioning as opposed to heating in Europe and most parts of North America.

Most unique residences for lease at Greenbelt

THE MOST unique residences in the country will soon be available for lease.

On top of the new Greenbelt 2 carpark structure in Makati and right in the midst of the redeveloped Greenbelt mall of the Ayala Center in Makati, the Residences at Greenbelt is destined to be the preferred community for expatriates, local businessmen who reside out of Metro Manila and well-heeled empty nesters and Makati business owners. It will be completed by the end of this year.

Developer Ayala Land Inc.'s confidence in the project stems from the ingenuous architecture and planning of the community as well as its superior location within the country's premiere shopping and business district.

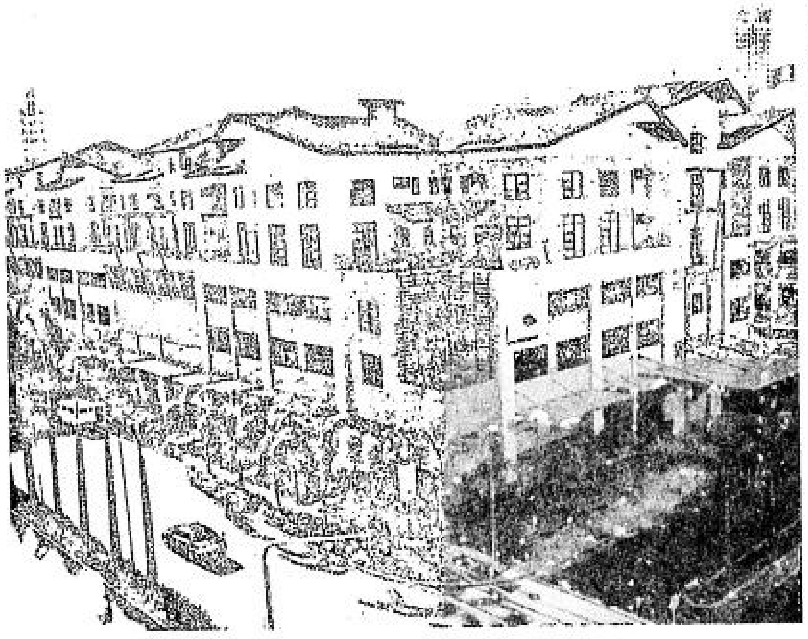
Strong attraction

Ayala Land vice president Angela dV. Lacson relates that the townhouse complex with 28 units was conceived while redevelopment of the commercial area was being planned. Greenbelt's masterplanners realized that as in other urban centers around the world, the entertainment hub of restaurants and shops surrounded by the center's green, spacious open spaces would serve as a strong attraction for the cosmopolitan business set with a preference for leasing rather than owning homes. This in addition to the area's proximity to most of Makati's business destinations

Business executives based in Makati, for instance, would have the option of walking to work. Better yet, they would have the luxury to unwind after hours at the Greenbelt restaurants and bars just a few steps away and still have time for a good night's rest.

More conveniences

Lacson observes that even retired couples have expressed interest in Residences at Greenbelt since they would be able to stay close to all the facilities while enjoying the security and convenience of living in a complex where maintenance is assigned to a professional property manager. Ayala Properties Management Corp., for instance, will maintain the common areas while being able to quickly provide a plumber to fix a leaking faucet in a unit.



RESIDENCES at Greenbelt: Luxury, convenience and location in the most unlikely place.

She notes: "We've designed the residences so that we take away a lot of the headaches of owning a home. At the same time, we offer our clients more conveniences such as being able to stroll to the cinemas or to do their shopping any time they wish unhampered by the dictates of traffic."

Creating a cozy community

Recio+Casas, an architectural design firm with a wealth of experience in mixed-use projects in Hong Kong, Bangkok and Singapore, was given the challenge of creating a cozy community in the heart of the urban center. According to Carmelo T. Casas, principal architect of the residential project, one of the firm's main objectives was to disguise the fact that three floors of the podium structure were devoted to parking.

He discloses that as a rule, economics dictate that parking areas make use of natural ventilation and wide unadorned openings to let the air in. These were easily covered by a series of screens and trellises. Jose Pedro Recio, Casas' partner, also notes that color was used to break up the strong horizontal lines associated with parking structures. The building was painted in a pleasing patchwork of complementary pastel shades.

Recio+Casas' hard work has resulted in an inviting cluster of townhomes with the feel of a small village that seems to spring from nowhere. From the main entrance at the ground floor of Residences at Greenbelt and through an exclusive lobby, one rides the elevators to the residential level. When the elevator opens, you see a central garden around which the townhomes are clustered and you think you are on ground level again.

Full of surprises

You enter a unit whose size may range from a comfortable 150 to a spacious 217 sq. m and open a door into a pocket garden, a standard feature of each of the units. The gardens make you feel you are in a quiet residential enclave. You look beyond the greenery and see the surrounding rooftops. You catch yourself and realize you are not on the ground but actually four levels up. "The project does offer a number of surprises and that is still another one of its attractions," notes Recio who together with Casas has done projects in Bangkok, Singapore and other Asian capitals..

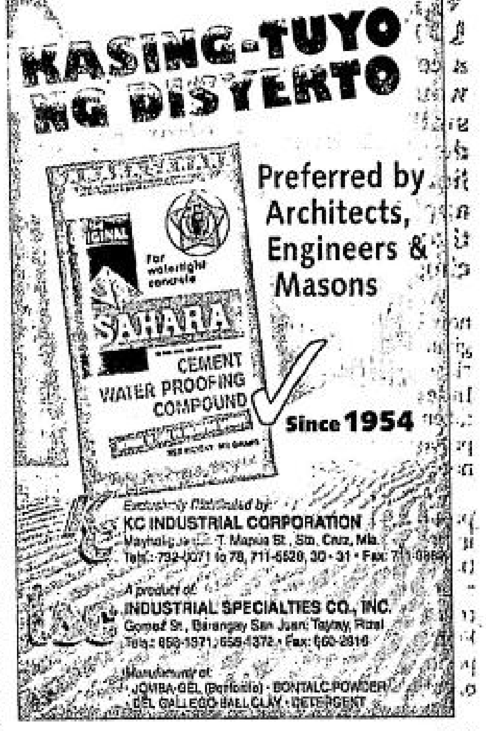
Inside the units, one feels he is in his own private abode. This feeling is reinforced by a sense of spaciousness and light as reflected by efficient planning in the living-dining area, roomy bedrooms sized from 16 to 20 sq. m in the second level as well as sloped ceilings that draw the eye upward. In both the three-bedroom corner units as well as the two-bedroom models, well-positioned floor-to-ceiling windows abound which allow cross- ventilation.

Focal point

More than the generous amenities of each of the units, nevertheless, the central courtyard clearly differentiates the residences from other similar quarters for lease. The Zen-inspired garden serves as focal point of the complex and incorporates bamboo fronds, rock formations, reflecting ponds as well as sculpture pieces.

The garden also represents an engineering feat, Casas points out. "We had to allow enough soil depth so the trees and other greens could take root." Moreover, because greenery needs constant watering, the building had to be rigorously fortified to carry the combined weight of soil and water.

Nevertheless, these facts would hardly matter to the visitor who would be absorbed by the tranquil and calming landscape of the courtyard. The irregular lines of the roofs in bottle green overlooking the garden add to the ambience of the cluster. One can imagine that on a moonlit night, the visitor would never know he was steps away from the heart of the country's busiest business and commercial district.



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Empire East Properties steps up Governor's Hills marketing

EMPIRE East Properties Inc., the affordable housing arm of Empire East Land Holdings Inc., is offering new residential phases and specific zones at the commercial center of its Governor's Hills flagship project in General Trias, Cavite, this year.

According to EEPI vice president for sales and marketing Emil Perez, the company is opening its residential phases 6 and 7, which will offer triplex homes, and phase 9 comprising duplex and single-detached residences.

"The plan to offer new residential phases in Governor's Hills is our response to the better-than-expected sales performance in the township," said Perez. "A good number of our customers are middle-income families and professionals who are looking for highly affordable homes that suit their different needs."

Commercial complex

For its 16-hectare commercial complex, EEPI is making available to interested investors its commercial lots that are suited to the needs of banks, corporate offices, fast-food outlets, gasoline stations and showrooms. The company plans to establish product- and service-specific zones in the commercial center and develop a dining and recreation hub similar to Megaworld's Eastwood City Walk in Quezon City.

Once fully developed, the commercial complex will boast facilities that cater to the requirements of industrial zones concentrated in the area and the needs of residents of Governor's Hills and neighboring towns.

EEPI's marketing teams have lined up a series of weekly open house activities as part of the company's stepped-up drive for the 89-hectare Governor's Hills community. To beef up its existing satellite sales offices in Alabang and Dasmariñas, Cavite. the company is planning to put up another satellite sales office in downtown Manila by the third quarter of the year.

Residential units in the first three phases of Governor's Hills are now being turned over to homebuyers. Construction of main and secondary roads, sidewalks and a pocket park and installation of drainage and water distribution systems are nearing full completion.

Currently being built are a golf driving range and basketball court while other amenities such as a village clubhouse and swimming pool and a high-standard school are scheduled to start construction by next year.

Condo developer

From page B10

to its clients. In the usual setup where there's a developer and a buyer, the new concept eliminates the developer in the equation, thus making the buyer co-owner and co-developer at the same time.

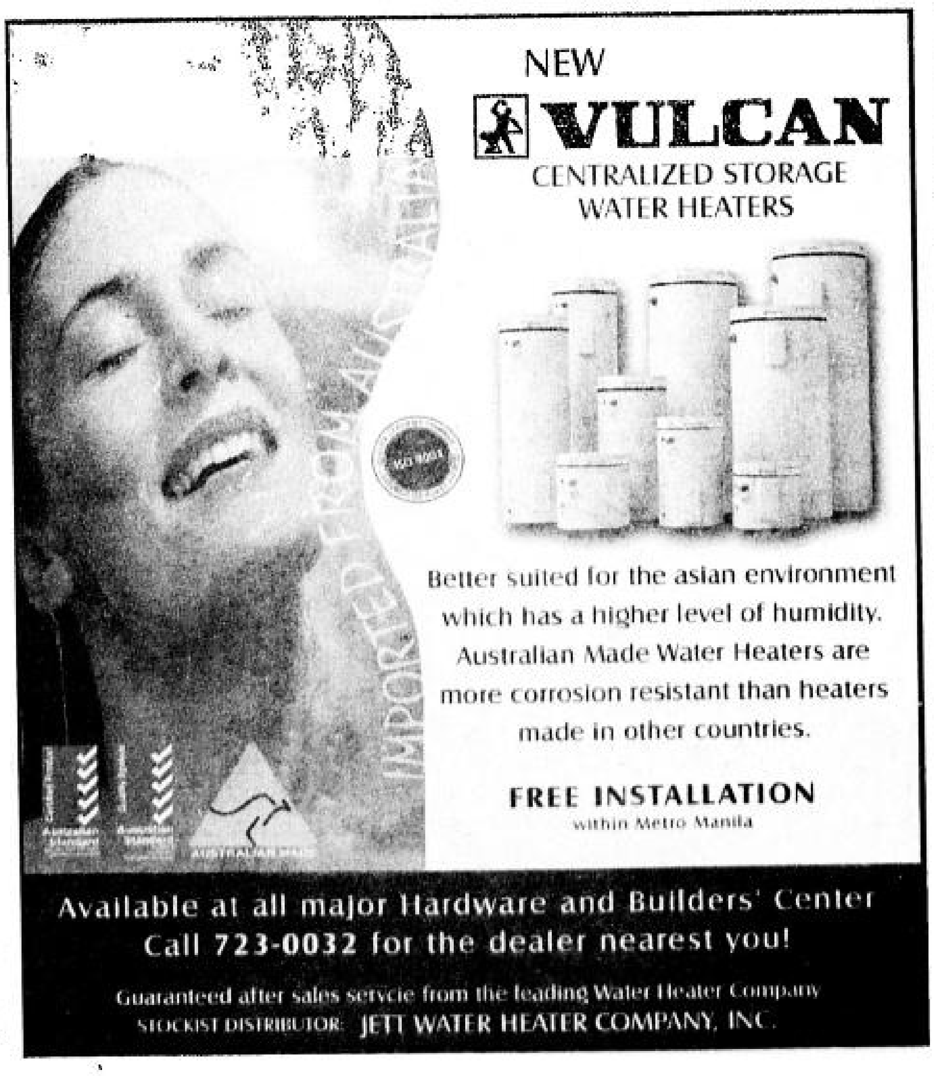
With this concept, the buyer acquires the unit at exactly the cost to build it—a big savings since the developer's fee is eliminated from the unit's actual price.

Said Qua: "This arrangement is risk-free from start to finish, and with flexible payment terms, it puts your dream condo within reach. Our clients are more like investors rather than anything else."

As investors to the project, buyers are required to open a trust account in their name. The money earns interest while the bank waits for the pooling period that will take about 12 months to eliminate delays in project implementation. Buyers pay as low as P14,000 a month for 18 months during the pooling period and an average monthly interest payment of P5,000 during the construction period.

The pooling period is when the bank gathers the buyers' respective down payments until sufficient fund is accumulated to start the construction of the project. After the pooling period, the bank will now disburse the fund to the project's respective suppliers and contractors so construction may begin. Construction will take an average of 27 months or less.

Filinvest Alabang Inc. is the property development subsidiary of Filinvest Development Corp., the firm responsible for master planning, developing the land and infrastructure, financing and marketing of Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang



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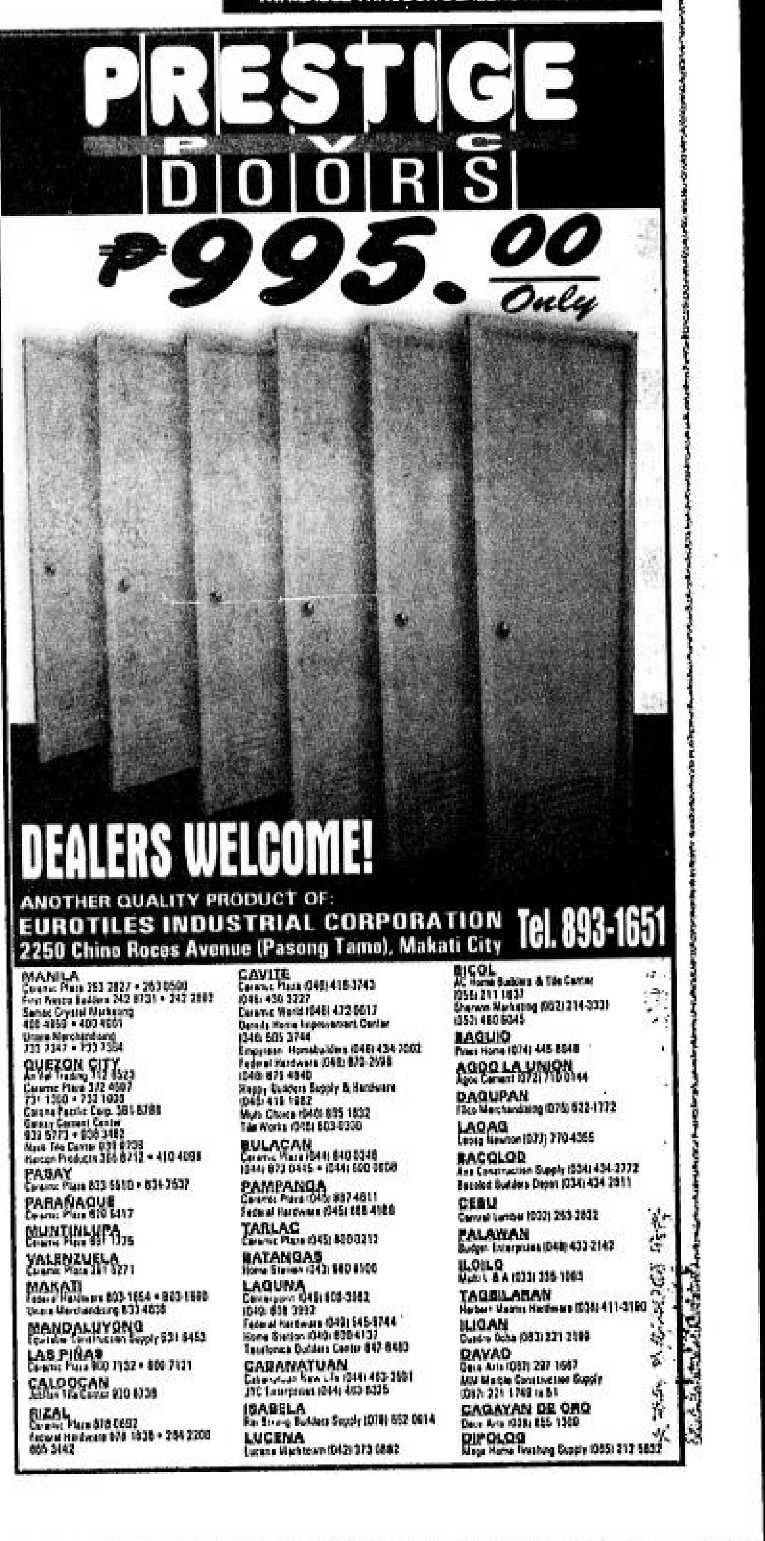

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5-month vehicle sales surge 10% to 31,859 units

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ALTIS

CR-V

VEHICLE sales surged 10 percent in the first five months this year as demand for Asian utility vehicles moved into the fast lane in the last two months largely due to brisk sales of the new Honda CR-V.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported that sales hit 31,859 units from January to May this year from 28,952 units during the same period last year.

Sales of commercial vehicles, which cornered 72 percent of the market, hit 22,955 units during the five-month period, up 14.8 percent from 19,998 during the same period last year. Sales of AUVs, sport utility vehicles, vans and pickup trucks reached 5,683 units in May, or 14 percent higher than April this year and 45 percent more than the same month last year.

Passenger cars slowed to 8,904 in the first five months this year from 8,954 during the same period last year.

Campi secretary general Mario de Grano credited the CR-V for the industry's spectacular sales last month.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc.'s strategic move to change the status of its CR-V from an SUV to AUV—which allowed it to slash prices by 30 percent to between P899,000 and P950,000—appears to be paying dividends.

The new CR-V, which was launched two months ago, was the second best-selling AUV model in May with 713 units sold, next only to the 1,186 units of Toyota Tamaraw and ahead of the Mitsubishi Adventure (676 units) and Isuzu Hi-Lander (17 percent).

But De Grano said passenger cars were bearing the brunt of the strong demand for the CR-V (which boasts of sedan-like qualities with the roominess and rugged look of a commercial vehicle).

In HCPI's case, the CR-V has been eating up sales of the Honda Civic, the former No. 1 passenger car model until it was eclipsed by the Toyota Corolla Altis.

From sales of 453 units in January this year, sales of the Civic plunged to 195 units in May this year. For the first time this year, sales of the lower-end Honda City (240 units in May) were higher than the Civic.

Toyota Motors Philippines Corp. still reigned supreme overall with sales of 9,578 units in the first five months for a 30-percent market share. Toyota was hitting on all cylinders in both passenger cars and commercial vehicles. Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. was several laps behind with 6,626 units sold or a 20.8-percent market share. HCPI was third with 4,264 units sold or 13.4-percent market share. Isuzu Philippines Corp. was fourth with 4,210 units sold or 13.2 percent of the market. The Nissan group was No. 5 with 2,634 units sold or 8.3-percent market share.

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Bayantel taps Credit Lyonnais as new adviser

By Abigail L. Ho

LOPEZ-OWNED Bayan Telecommunications Inc. has tapped Credit Lyonnais Securities Europe as its new financial adviser to assist it in the restructuring of about $477 million in debts.

CLSE replaced Bank of America Asia Ltd., which the firm appointed on Dec. 19, 2000, to assist the Bayantel management throughout the debt-restructuring period.

"The company decided to bring in a new financial adviser last month. We got CLSE because we were impressed by its track record," Bayantel chief finance officer Gary Olivar said in a telephone interview.

Because of the switch, he said it would take more time for the telecommunications firm to review the proposal that its creditor-banks presented to it in March.

In an earlier interview, Olivar said its secured creditor-banks had already reviewed Bayantel's debt restructuring proposal and had given its response to the Lopez-owned firm for review.

"We received a proposal from the bank steering committee in mid-March. We're still studying their proposal. Hopefully, we'll be able to meet with them again soon. It depends on how long it takes us to study their proposal," he said.

As of this month, Bayantel has yet to submit its response to the banks.

"It will take more time for us to respond because we just got a new financial adviser. But they'll be getting up to speed," he said.

Bayantel on Oct. 8 last year presented a restructuring proposal to its creditors based on a business plan that incorporated the findings of Arthur D. Little, the independent auditor that its creditor-banks appointed.

The Lopez-owned firm's management proposed that its obligations be stretched to 15 years with a five-year grace period on principal.

Proposed interest rates were a one-percent spread over the three-month London interbank offered rate (Libor) for dollar-denominated debts and a one-percent spread over the 91-day treasury bill for peso-denominated loans.

Pre-need firms seek bill revisions

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies wants proposed legislation for the strengthening of the country's pre-need industry to provide regulators with more flexibility in overseeing the industry.

In a briefing Friday, PFPPCI president Miguel Vasquez said that the federation was lobbying for the exclusion of specific levels of trust fund contributions, termination values and interest rates, among others, from the proposed legislation.

Vasquez said the federation would rather see that such issues, which have a strong impact on the market's development, be covered in the implementing rules and regulations that the assigned regulator would draw up in line with the law once passed.

At present, proposed legislation provides for specific trust fund contributions, interest rates and termination values although different bills mandate either the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Insurance Commission to regulate the industry.

But legislators are pushing a proposal to further strengthen the country's pre-need industry under the supervision of the SEC.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda is sponsoring a bill that aims to further enhance the capacity of pre-need companies to flourish for the benefit of its more than 5 million holders. The bill is set to be tackled by the House of Representatives' committee on banking and finance chaired by Manila Rep. Jaime Lopez.

House members have expressed support for the bill as they stressed the need to ensure the growth of such firms in order to provide for the needs of plan holders.

They also cited the measure's potential to promote the growth of the industry and allow such firms to address the future needs of Filipinos as the industry has grown in recent years, serving the needs of plan holders.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Fitness

To lose weight, exercise is not enough

Don't expect your program to do all the work for you. You have to help it along by watching what you eat

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

MANY new exercisers quit prematurely before they can fully reap the benefits of exercise because of unrealistic expectations. It's bad enough that many think they can build the body of their dreams overnight but is worse when the majority believe that exercise can do it all for them.

Take note of this study that was published in the 1997 International Journal of Obesity. Scientists analyzed 25 years' worth of weight loss research (over 493 studies) to find out the best method to lose weight: Diet alone, exercise alone or a combination of diet and exercise. The method of dieting used was caloric restriction. The exercise involved was aerobic (walking, cycling, etc.) and not resistance training (lifting weights).

They found that exercise alone was the least effective method for weight loss and body fat reduction. The participants exercised regularly but did not change their eating habits. They became fit (more stamina, endurance, etc.) but did not lose weight. However, it is worth noting that when they were followed up many years later, exercise alone was found to be the best method for weight maintenance.

The diet-alone group and the combination diet-and-exercise group lost approximately the same amount of weight—1.6 pounds per week or 11 kg in 15 weeks.

Combination works

You might be saying to yourself, if dieting alone makes me lose the same amount of weight as dieting and exercise, why should I bother exercising? Well, because the diet-alone group lost more lean body mass (translation: muscle) than the diet-and-exercise group. The diet-alone group lost 25 percent of their lean body mass, while the diet-and-exercise group lost 2 percent of their lean mass. This is because only aerobic exercise was used. If resistance training were also included, there would have been an

TO LOSE/ p.C3

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HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, 2nd Flr. Festival Supermall (Main Forest Entrance)
• 3rd Flr. The Plaza Bldg., Greenbelt Shopping Centre, Mkt.
CEBU HOLDINGS, Suite 505 Cebu Business Park, Ayala Center, Cebu City
PAMPANGA CLINIC, D. Y. G Bldg., 2nd Flr. 212 B Mendoza St., San Fernando Pampanga
DAVAO BRANCH, Chardin Davao, Florentine Bldg., A. Bonifacio St., Davao City, 8000
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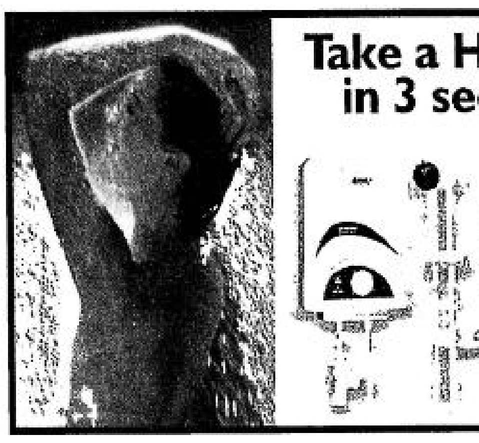
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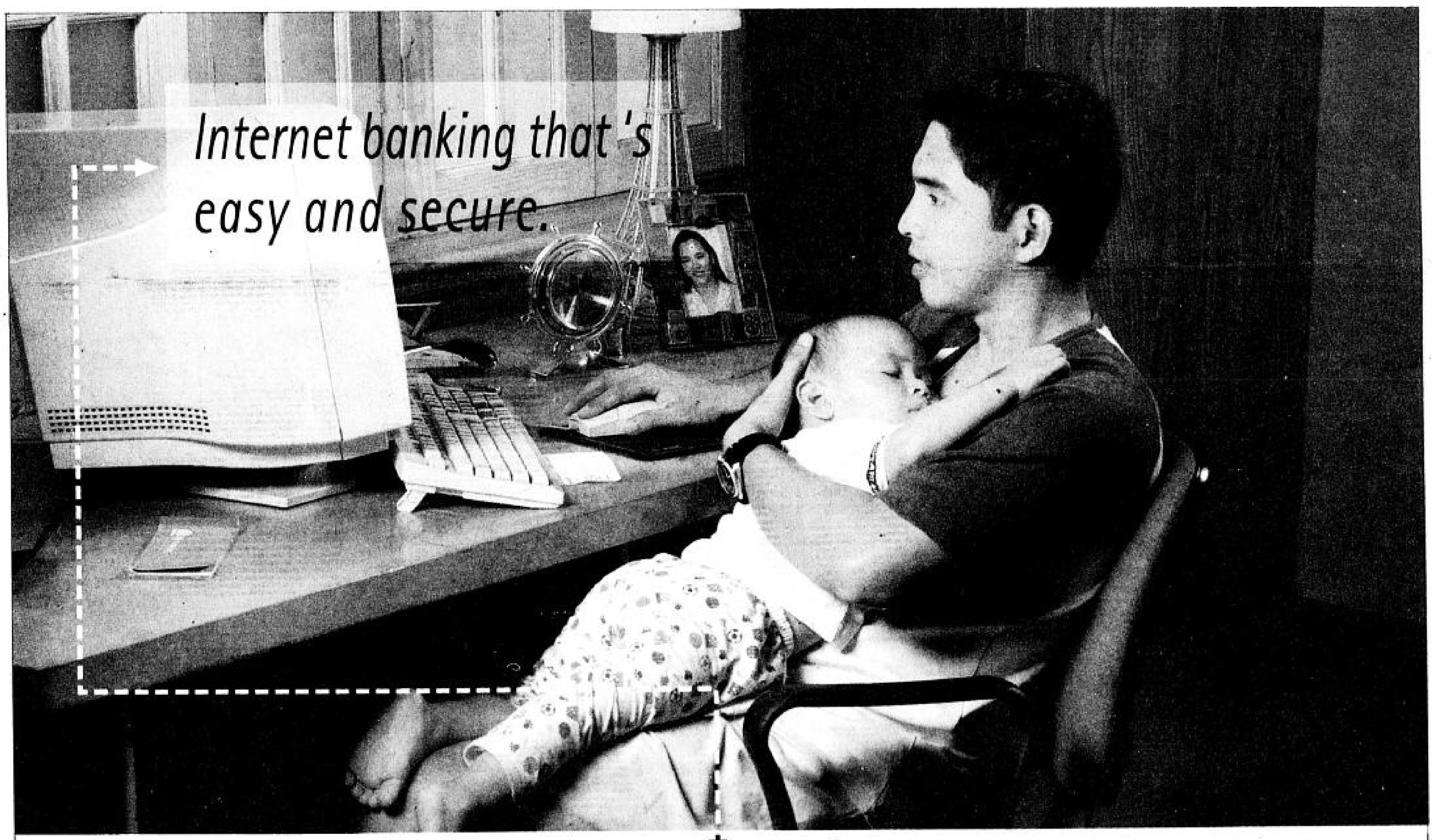
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☞ A 20-minute time delay that keeps others from accessing your account in case you didn't log out properly
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☞ Website certification by Verisign, one of the world's leading website authentication companies
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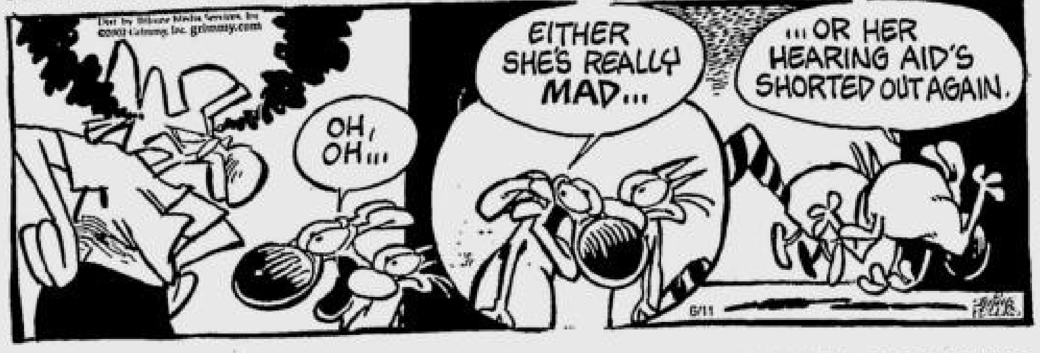
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS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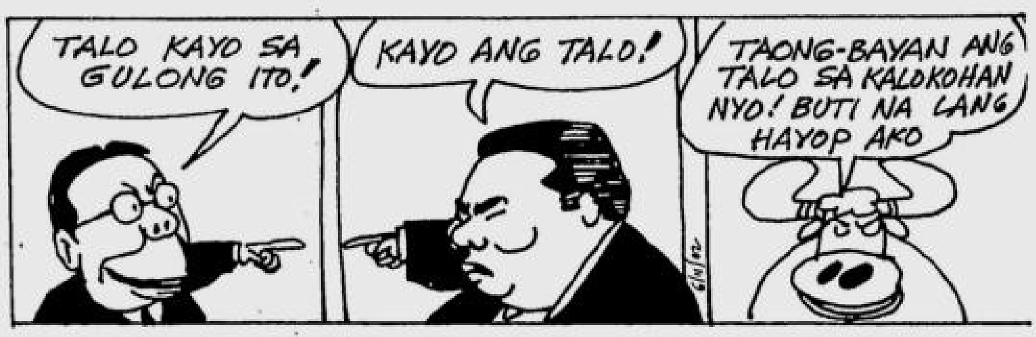
OH, OH...
EITHER SHE'S REALLY MAD...
...OR HER HEARING AID'S SHORTED OUT AGAIN.
6/11

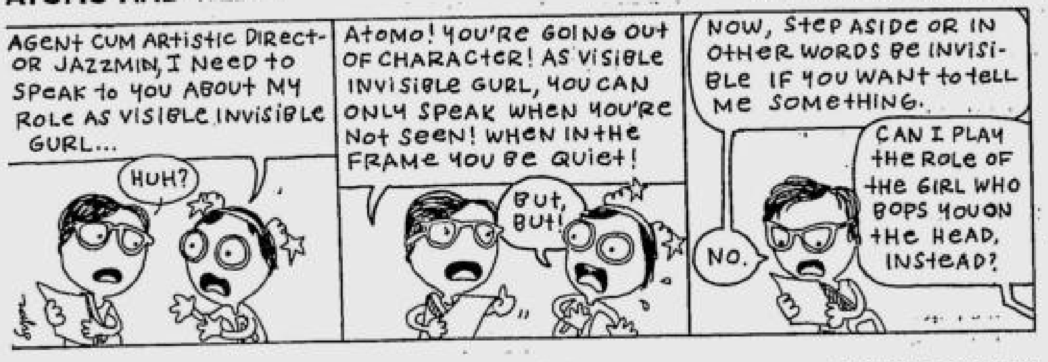
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TALO KAYO SA GULONG ITO!
KAYO ANG TALO!
TAONG-BAYAN ANG TALO SA KALOKOHAN NYO! BUTI NA LANG HAYOP AKO

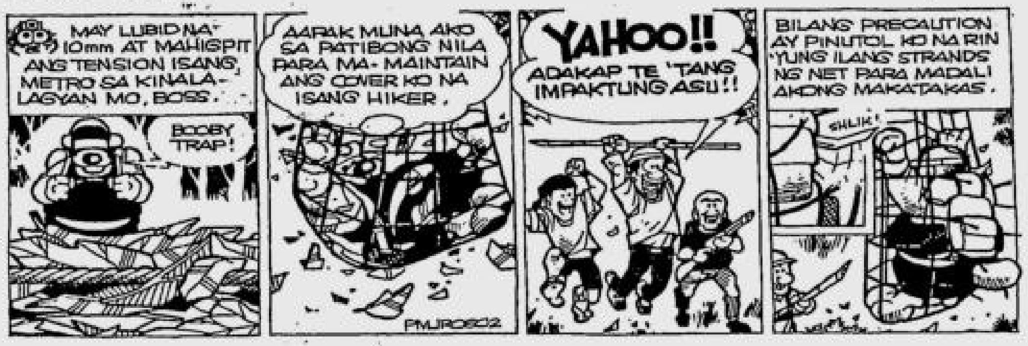
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AGENT CUM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAZZMIN, I NEED TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT MY ROLE AS VISIBLE INVISIBLE GURL...
HUH?
ATOMO! YOU'RE GOING OUT OF CHARACTER! AS VISIBLE INVISIBLE GURL, YOU CAN ONLY SPEAK WHEN YOU'RE NOT SEEN! WHEN IN THE FRAME YOU BE QUIET!
BUT, BUT!
NOW, STEP ASIDE OR IN OTHER WORDS BE INVISIBLE IF YOU WANT TO TELL ME SOMETHING.
CAN I PLAY THE ROLE OF THE GIRL WHO BOPS YOU ON THE HEAD, INSTEAD?
NO.

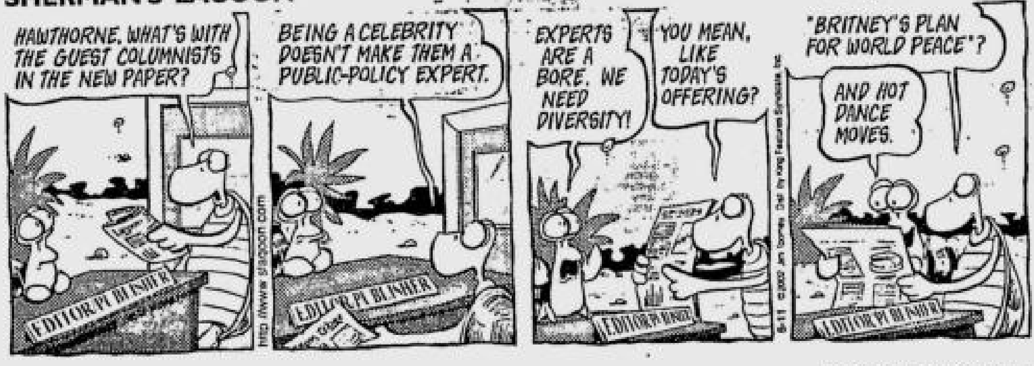
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAY LUBID NA 10mm AT MAHIGPIT ANG TENSION ISANG METRO SA KINALALAGYAN MO, BOSS.
BOOBY TRAP!
AARAK MUNA AKO SA PATIBONG NILA PARA MA-MAINTAIN ANG COVER KO NA ISANG HIKER.
PMJR0602
YAHOO!!
ADAKAP TE 'TANG IMPAKTUNG ASU!!
BILANG PRECAUTION AY PINUTOL KO NA RIN 'YUNG ILANG STRANDS NG NET PARA MADALI AKONG MAKATAKAS.
SHLIK!

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HAWTHORNE, WHAT'S WITH THE GUEST COLUMNISTS IN THE NEW PAPER?
EDITOR PUBLISHER
BEING A CELEBRITY DOESN'T MAKE THEM A PUBLIC-POLICY EXPERT.
http://www.slagoon.com
EXPERTS ARE A BORE. WE NEED DIVERSITY!
YOU MEAN, LIKE TODAY'S OFFERING?
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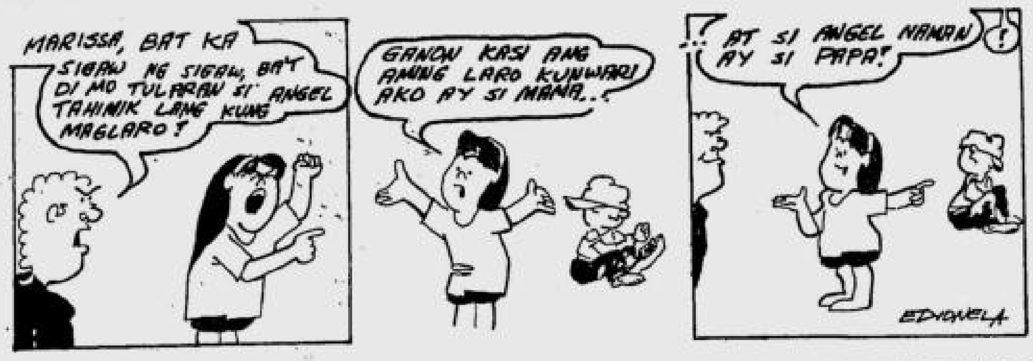
"BRITNEY'S PLAN FOR WORLD PEACE"?
AND HOT DANCE MOVES.

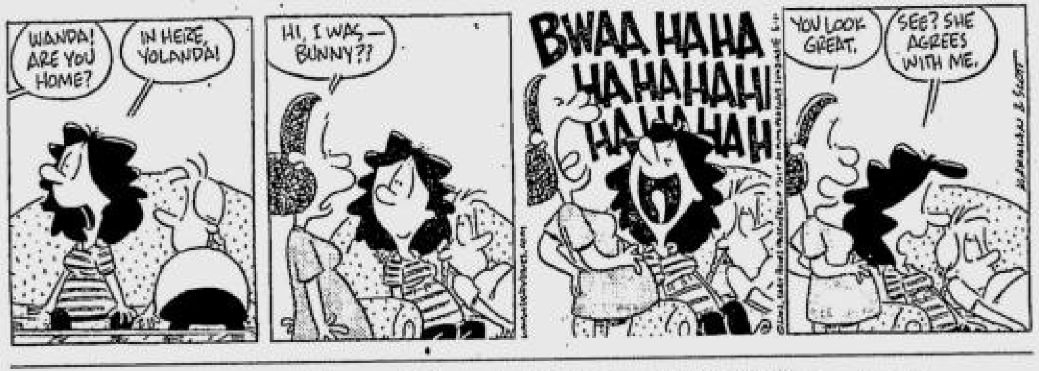
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MARISSA, BAT KA SIGAW NG SIGAW, BA'T DI MO TULARAN SI ANGEL TAHIMIK LANG KUNG MAGLARO!
GANON KASI ANG AMING LARO KUNWARI AKO AY SI MAMA...
AT SI ANGEL NAMAN AY SI PAPA!
EDIONELA

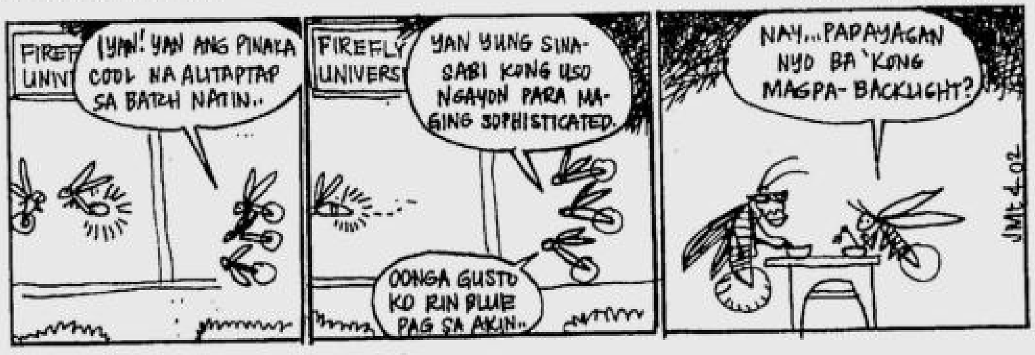
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WANDA! ARE YOU HOME?
IN HERE, YOLANDA!
HI, I WAS— BUNNY??
BWAA HAHA HAHAHAH HAHAHAH
YOU LOOK GREAT.
SEE? SHE AGREES WITH ME.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


FIREFLY UNIVERSITY
IYAN! YAN ANG PINAKA COOL NA ALITAPTAP SA BATCH NATIN..
YAN YUNG SINASABI KONG USO NGAYON PARA MAGING SOPHISTICATED.
OONGA GUSTO KO RIN BLUE PAG SA AKIN..
NAY...PAPAYAGAN NYO BA 'KONG MAGPA-BACKLIGHT?
JMT 4-02

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gene Wilder, Jacques Cousteau, Joe Montana, Vince Lombardi

Happy Birthday: You will actively pursue your goals this year in order to buy the power and security you desire where your family and home are concerned. You will probably have to help an older relative with any problems that he or she is facing. Get involved with large organizations and you'll be sure to prosper. . Your numbers are 19, 21, 28, 32, 25, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be in the mood to get out and do things but don't neglect to take care of your responsibilities at home first. Don't be disappointed if someone you wanted to see has other plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): This is the perfect day for you to get to know some new friends. You will get the support and help you need if you go to the organization that can offer you assistance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Professional opportunities are available to you if you are quick to take advantage of them. Don't just think ,do things.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your mind will be on emotional matters today - but if you are compassionate and compromising you will discover that things will actually turn out to be in your favor. Deal with issues that have been on your mind.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may have to deal with some secret matters today. Try to keep things to yourself. Involvement with large corporations or government agencies may be necessary. Be prepared to stand in line.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You're likely to run into or contact someone you knew way back when. This individual may be into something that interests you. This could be just the connection you've been looking for.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may have a problem with someone you have to deal with today. Don't be too quick to lower yourself to his or her level. Listen and go on your way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Consider joining a group that can teach you about different beliefs or philosophies. You aren't a follower but if you take a multitude of different ideas from others you will come up with what works best for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Deal with any pending legal or financial problems. A window of opportunity is apparent if you act fast. Don't be reluctant to make a move.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will have an expansive outlook and if you put extra detail into your work, the sky will be the limit. Your competitive nature will help you to move into a position that will bring you more cash and more clout.

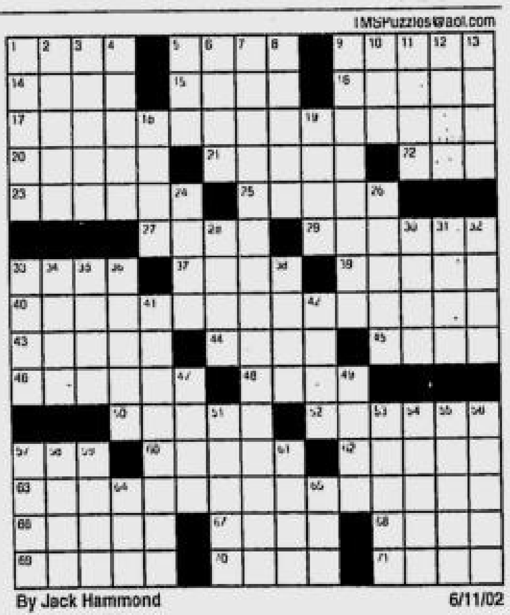
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You must focus on your future prospects and look for professional opportunities. Work on projects that will improve your lifestyle.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your mind will be on creative endeavors or doing things with friends or children. You can fit plenty in if you organize your day. Make your move on someone you fancy.

Birthday Baby: You will love to work on creative projects. You will have lots of wonderful ideas and will be terrific at getting them started. You will enjoy most activities that call for both mental and physical agility.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

By Jack Hammond
Savannah, GA

6/11/02

ACROSS

1 Elects
5 Cleansing routine
9 Island west of Maui
14 Soft, soggy mixture
15 Sore
16 Saudis and Syrians
17 Get nowhere fast?
20 Fine-grained corundum
21 Heavyweight boxer Liston
22 Christopher or Pinky
23 Six-line poem
25 Mournful cries
27 "Beloved" writer Morrison
29 Bronze skin
33 New York stadium
37 Five-dollar bills
39 Motive
40 Train with chains?
43 Prost or Resnais
44 Leveling piece
45 Fewer
46 Midler and Davis
48 Monumental
50 In the air
52 Meal
57 Help!
60 Dimwit
62 Milk: pref.
63 Prepare to perspire?
66 Sky blue
67 Gull relative
68 Perry's creator
69 Temperate
70 Lost traction
71 Feed-bag morsels

DOWN

1 Evil giants
2 Decorative feather
3 Shadings
4 Wear
5 Cole call
6 Makes a move
7 Cry uncle?
8 Serengeti carnivore
9 Gambler's date?
10 Militarize
11 Toe tip
12 Up to the task
13 Capri or Anglesey
18 Negative in Novgorod
19 Colonial black cuckoos
24 Vegetarian's staple
26 Slow-moving animal
28 Young lice
30 Air
31 Invites
32 Scottish loch
33 Sailor's mop
34 Aperture
35 Part of Q.E.D.
36 Japanese guard dog
38 Tanker or cruiser
41 Short joke
42 Abu Dhabi leader
47 Whiskey spritz
49 Breton, e.g.
51 Dukes
53 Procession of matadors
54 Luxury Honda
55 Wading bird
56 Lugs
57 Health resort springs
58 Greek liqueur
59 Broadway souvenir
61 Actress Garr
64 Mine find
65 Too

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	L	A	B	■	A	B	U	T	■	A	P	A	R	T
T	E	T	E	■	L	E	N	A	■	W	A	H	O	O
E	A	R	L	■	T	R	I	P	■	O	N	S	E	T
W	R	I	G	L	E	Y	F	I	E	L	D	■	■	■
S	N	A	R	E	■	L	Y	N	X	■	A	L	I	A
■	■	■	A	N	I	■	■	■	C	A	S	I	N	G
A	P	E	D	■	R	E	C	O	I	L	■	C	P	A
V	E	T	E	R	A	N	S	S	T	A	D	I	U	M
A	S	H	■	U	N	E	A	S	E	■	E	T	T	A
S	C	A	R	E	S	■	■	■	D	E	C	■	■	■
T	I	N	E	■	O	N	U	S	■	L	I	N	G	O
■	■	■	C	O	M	I	S	K	E	Y	P	A	R	K
S	I	X	T	H	■	C	H	I	P	■	H	O	U	R
I	D	I	O	M	■	H	E	R	E	■	E	M	M	A
P	A	I	R	S	■	E	R	T	E	■	R	I	P	S

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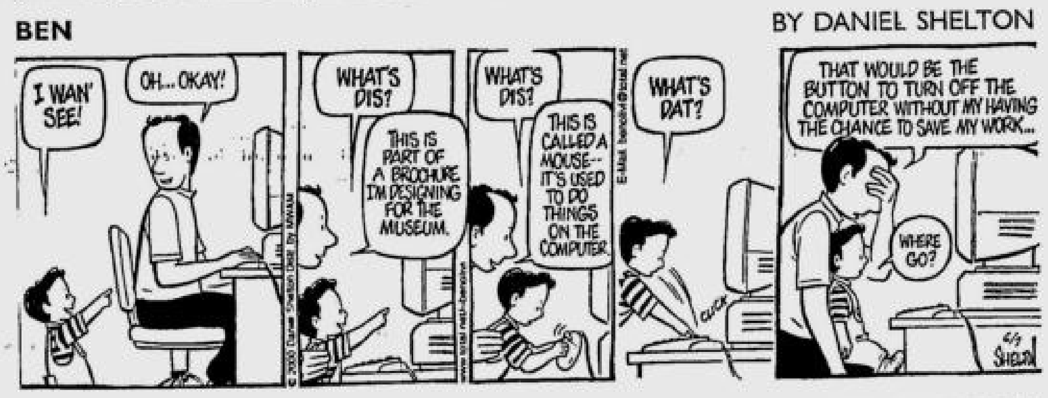
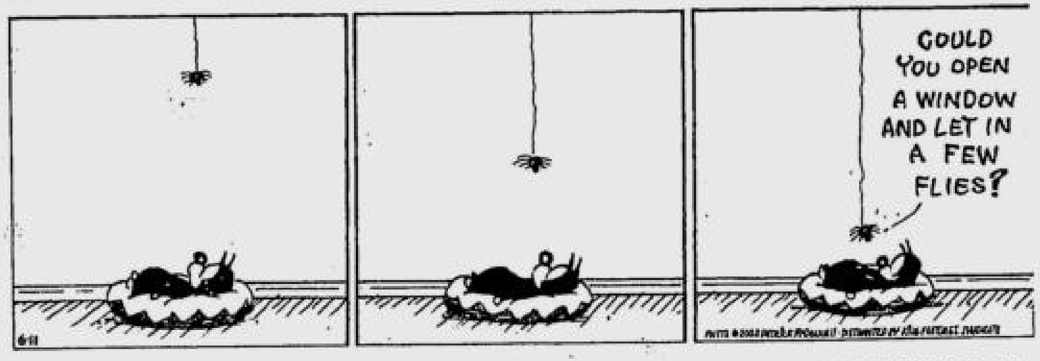
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I WAN' SEE!
OH... OKAY!
WHAT'S DIS?
THIS IS PART OF A BROCHURE I'M DESIGNING FOR THE MUSEUM.
WHAT'S DIS?
THIS IS CALLED A MOUSE-- IT'S USED TO DO THINGS ON THE COMPUTER.
WHAT'S DAT?
CLICK
THAT WOULD BE THE BUTTON TO TURN OFF THE COMPUTER WITHOUT MY HAVING THE CHANCE TO SAVE MY WORK...
WHERE GO?
6/1 SHELTON

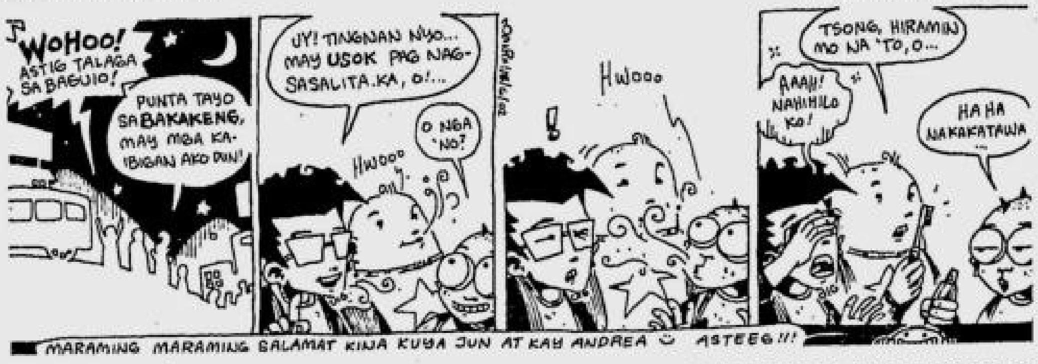
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


6-11
COULD YOU OPEN A WINDOW AND LET IN A FEW FLIES?

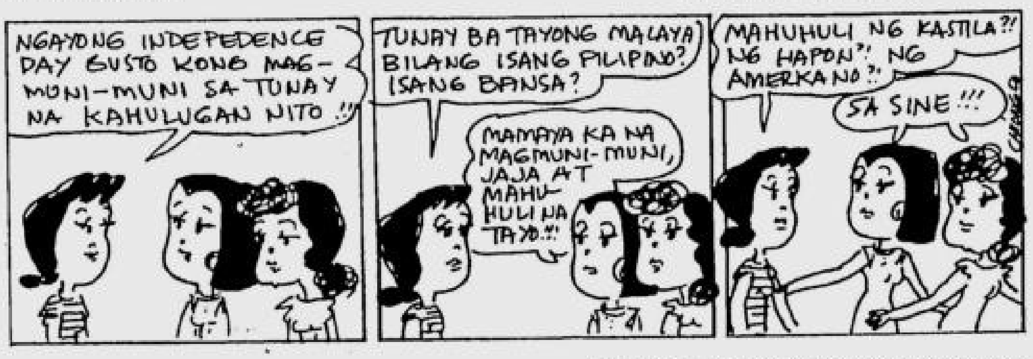
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


WOHOO! ASTIG TALAGA SA BAGUIO!
PUNTA TAYO SA BAKAKENG, MAY MGA KAIBIGAN AKO DUN!
UY! TINGNAN NYO... MAY USOK PAG NAGSASALITA KA, O!...
O NGA 'NO?
HWOOO
!
HWOOO
TSONG, HIRAMIN MO NA 'TO, O...
AAAH! NAHIHILO KO!
HA HA NAKAKATAWA
MARAMING MARAMING SALAMAT KINA KUYA JUN AT KAY ANDREA ☺ ASTEEG!!!

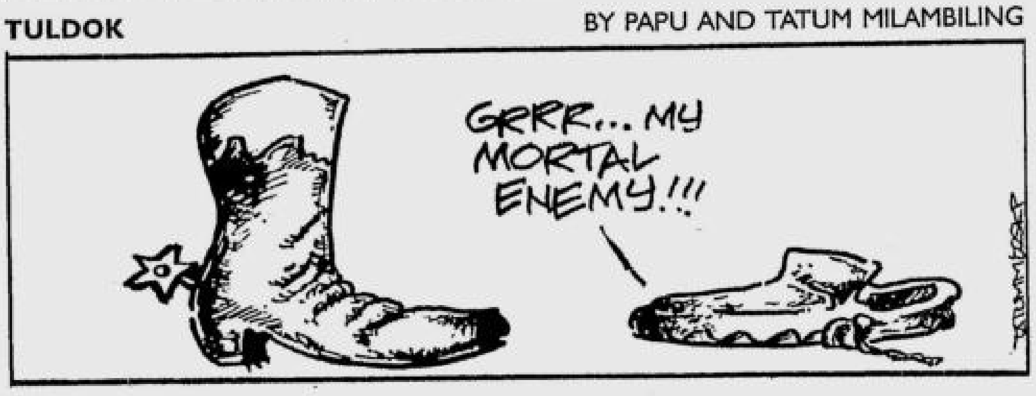
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NGAYONG INDEPEDENCE DAY GUSTO KONG MAGMUNI-MUNI SA TUNAY NA KAHULUGAN NITO!!
TUNAY BA TAYONG MALAYA BILANG ISANG PILIPINO? ISANG BANSA?
MAMAYA KA NA MAGMUNI-MUNI, JAJA AT MAHUHULI NA TAYO!!
MAHUHULI NG KASTILA?! NG HAPON?! NG AMERKANO?!
SA SINE!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


GRRR... MY MORTAL ENEMY!!!

To lose weight, exercise is not enough

From page C1

increase in lean mass as well as a loss of fat.

If you lose a substantial amount of muscle, you lower the capacity of your body to burn calories and end up having to eat miniscule amounts of food just to maintain your weight. This is no surprise since muscles are the "calorie-hungry" tissues of your body. Therefore, when they were followed up one year later, it was the combination diet-and-exercise group that lost more weight than the diet-alone group.

The point I am trying to make here is that you cannot expect your exercise program to do all the work for you if you are trying to lose weight. You have to help it along by watching what you eat.

Exercise alone without dieting doesn't work because the majority of people increase their caloric intake without realizing it. The rationale is that since they are exercising, they now have the license to eat more.

Another mistake is they believe that whatever excess calories they eat today, they will be able to burn tomorrow by doing more exercise than normal. Unfortunately, this is easier said than done.

Here's a real-life example from a reader's "true confession" of a midnight splurge—four slices of thin-crust pepperoni pizza, a 12-oz soft drink, one scoop of ice cream and a bag of potato chips. That is approximately 2,000 calories. To burn that many calories, you would have to do about 2½ hours of high-intensity aerobic exercise (around 400 calories per 30 minutes). What do you think actually happens the next day? Not all the calories from the binge are burned because it is unrealistic to exercise that long at that intensity and, therefore, the excess calories are stored as fat.

Aaargh!
185
AGR

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Take the stairs

Eating habits aren't the only things that need to be changed if you want to lose weight. You also have to help your weight loss along by becoming more active throughout the day. Sure, you might be working out regularly in the gym three to five times a week but the rest of the day you turn into a slug who hardly moves.

If you want to see quicker results, purposely find ways to move more during your regular daily activities. Take the stairs instead of the elevator. If your destination is 10 floors up, get off on the fifth or sixth floor and climb the rest of the way. Believe me, once you get used to climbing stairs, 10 floors would be manageable. A few weeks ago, I had to take my daughter to visit her doctor. Automatically, I asked the security guard where the stairs were. He asked what floor we were going to and when I said the eighth floor, he looked at us as though we were crazy.

This is not surprising since many people take the elevator just to go up one or two floors.

Stair climbing burns about 480 calories per hour. That comes out to eight calories a minute—the equivalent of doing a Taebo class. Even if you just accumulate an hour's worth of stair climbing in a month, that's 5,760 calories in one year or 1.6 pounds you have kept away from your body. It would be even better if you could accumulate an hour every week. Then you could ratchet up your calorie burning to 24, 960 calories in one year or 7 pounds of weight. Not bad for something that you don't even have to take time out for in your busy schedule. Besides, since elevators are usually full of people, you will save yourself a great deal of time.

If escalators are relatively free of people, climb them like stairs instead of just standing there. As long as there are no security issues, park your car a farther distance than you normally do. If you have to park nearby, walk around the building or mall once or twice before going to your final destination.

At work, set your alarm on your cell phone or watch to ring every hour so you can do five minutes of muscle-firming exercises or stretches at your desk or use that time to walk around or climb stairs. While watching TV, use the commercials as your cue to do exercises right there in your bedroom or living room. This strategy is the best alternative I know for very busy people who cannot find the time to exercise for 30-60 minutes straight. The goal is to accumulate one hour's worth of five-minute sessions in a day. This doesn't just burn calories and shape your muscles but you will find that you have more energy and your productivity will increase.

So if you have been exercising regularly but you're a couch potato eating potato chips the rest of the day, don't be surprised if you aren't losing weight. Sure, you might be getting fit but you will still be fat! If you want the best of both worlds, exercise, watch what you eat and be more active the whole day.

The Association of Fitness Professionals will hold a fitness seminar on June 22 at the Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman. Topics include Kickboxing, Yoga, Cardio Ballroom and Common Weight Lifting Injuries. Call Doris at 850-7647.

The Sports Medicine Association of the Philippines will be hold its Basic and Advance Course every last Saturday of the month starting June 29 at the UST Medicine Building. It is open to physicians, nurses, physical therapists, fitness trainers, PE teachers and athletic coaches. Call 521-9123 or 522-2374 or e-mail sportsmedphil @yahoo.com.

Watch "In Fitness & In Health" on Studio 23 (Channel 42 on Destiny Cable), Mondays to Fridays, 6-6:30 a.m.

For past articles or exercises, go to www. tinajuanfitness.com. Write me at PDI Lifestyle or e-mail fitness@ibm.net.

Know what and how . . .

From page C4

suming of course, you listen to your body and are not in denial about your eating lifestyle.

I do know one thing—if I follow Dr. Perricone's plan strictly, I will lose weight instantly. I am just one of those types who must carbo-load to maintain my weight because of my active exercise lifestyle. Admittedly, I have learned to cut back on the bad carbo.

Mindset

Adopting a new mindset to improve your health can only contribute to your general well being. What to do:

1. Keep an open mind—read up.
2. Pick up the pearls of wisdom that you may want to apply to your life.
3. Be more aware of and conscious about what you eat and how much.
4. Your affirmation, "Today is the first day of a healthier me!"

While you are at it, here's one carbo that is a good beauty regimen if you want to remove the dark circles and eye bags from your eyes?

Potato fix:

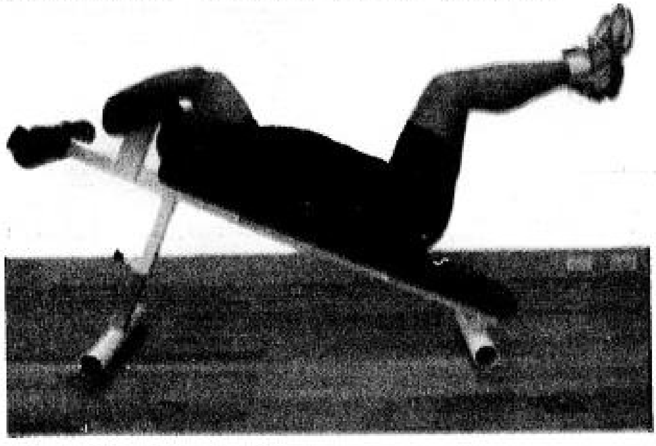
Cut two slices of potato circles (potato cut horizontally, ¼-inch thick). Chill them for 20 minutes in the ref, or dip in iced water (pat dry before applying). Apply directly to your eyes. Leave on for 3 minutes. Repeat procedure until swelling is reduced.

Love and light!

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Incline or decline reverse curl

WORKS the straight abdominal muscle (*rectus abdominis*) with slight emphasis on the lower portion.



Equipment:

Inclined gym bench or you can also use a decline bench.

Exercise technique:

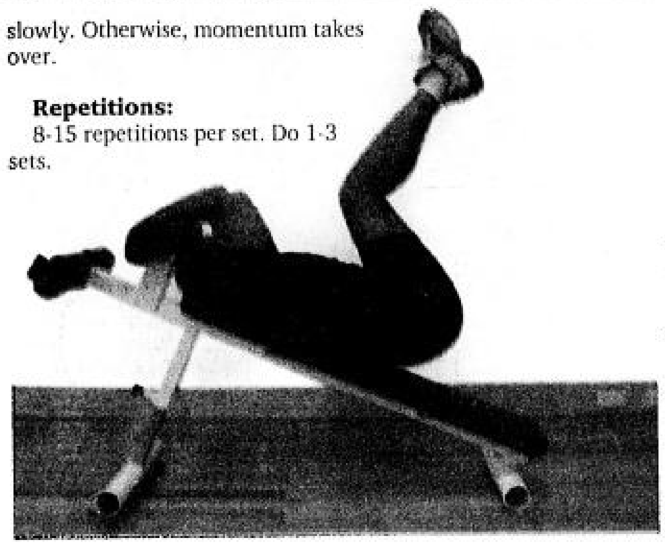
1. Lie down on an inclined (30-45-degree incline) gym bench.
2. Hold the bench behind your head with both hands. Carefully bring your knees toward your chest.
3. Straighten your legs over your hips with the soles of your feet facing upward. Contract your abdominal muscles to curl your buttocks a few inches off the bench. Hold for one to two counts.
4. Slowly lower your buttocks down to the bench.

Performance tips:

1. This should be done in a "curling" or "rolling" motion, rather than jerking your hips straight up.
2. Your legs shouldn't be swinging back and forth. Hold them steady as you curl from the pelvis.
3. The natural range of motion is only a few inches. Do not try to lift the buttocks too high.
4. If this bothers your lower back, please don't do the exercise.
5. The abdominal muscles work the most effectively if the exercise is done slowly. Otherwise, momentum takes over.

Repetitions:

8-15 repetitions per set. Do 1-3 sets.



Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Is reconstructive surgery included in MEDICard's healthcare program?

Yes, reconstructive surgery is part of MEDICard's healthcare program for its members for covered cases only (e.g. injuries secondary to covered vehicular accidents). Hence, this procedure will not covered if done for cosmetic purposes or for correction of physical congenital deformities.

Meet your MEDICard Team

The co-founder of the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology is MEDICard accredited doctor, **Dr. Deogracias B. Custodio.** Dr. Custodio is a 1960 UP Medicine graduate who specializes in Medical Oncology with residency training from the State University of New York. He has been practicing his profession for more than 34 years now. Doc Deogracias is a Fellow to the Philippine Society of Oncologists and the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology. He is also an active member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. You may visit Dr. Custodio for your medical needs at Room 374 of Makati Medical Center, Mondays to Saturdays, from 9 AM to 12 noon.

Internist **Dr. Rogelio E. de la Cruz** is a graduate of Medicine at FEU-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Memorial Medical Foundation and took his residency training for his specialization at Quirino Memorial Medical Center. Doc Rogelio subspecializes in Nephrology where he received his training from the National Kidney and Transplant Institute. He is an Associate Fellow to the Philippine College of Physicians and an Associate Member to the Philippine Society of Nephrology. Doc Rogelio, in his free time is fond of swimming and jogging. You may visit Dr. de la Cruz for your consultation needs at Room 206 of the World Citi Medical Center (formerly QCMC), Mondays to Saturdays from 8 to 11 AM.

MEDICard's Medical Coordinator and Medical Director to the Bautista Hospital in Cavite City is Internist **Dr. Edwin B. Poblete.** Dr. Poblete is a graduate of Medicine from the University of the Philippines and subspecializes in Cardiology where he received his training from the Philippine Heart Center for Asia. Doc Edwin has been in the practice of medicine for more than 18 years now and has been a part of MEDICard's top-notch medical service providers for more than 9 years now. In his free time, Doc enjoys listening to music, reading and playing golf. Visit Dr. Poblete for your consultation needs at the Bautista Hospital from Mondays to Saturdays, 8 AM to 5 PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840 -2020 local 2017 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

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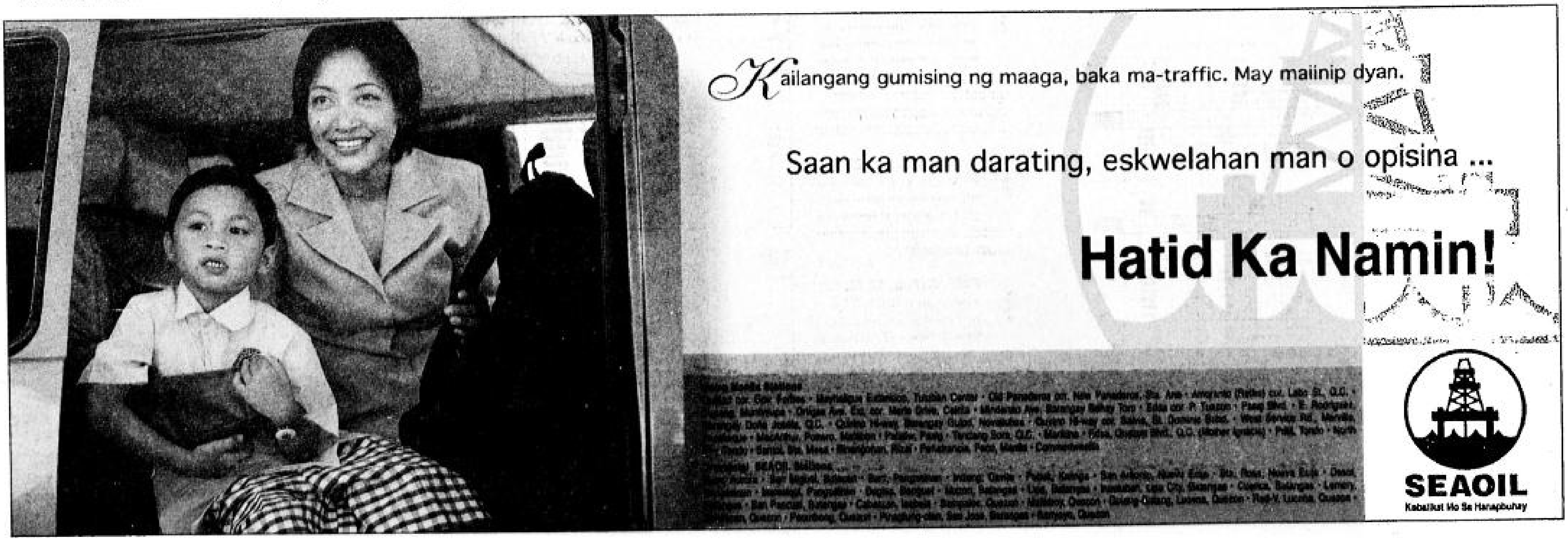
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Know what and how much to eat

LAST week I dropped a bomb, didn't I? That sugar causes aging and has the ability to speed up the breakdown of the collagen of your skin. This is according to Michael Perricone, M.D.'s "The Wrinkle Cure." Does this mean that one must refrain from consuming sugar if staying healthy and young is the primary concern?

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

Carbo = Sugar

In his book "Enter the Zone," Barry Sears, M.D., explains that when you consume carbohydrates (especially refined carbo like cakes, breads, pancakes), your blood sugar rises, then insulin is secreted by your pancreas to keep the sugar under control: "The release of insulin pushes your cellular metabolism into a mode which produces inflammatory chemicals."

The aging process is significantly stimulated by high levels of insulin that cause inflammatory chemicals that encourage your body to store fats, cause prematurely aged skin and degenerative diseases like Alzheimer's, heart disease, cancer, etc.

Highs and lows

The secret is to know what to eat and what quantities you can take. Here is a glycemic index:

Carbohydrates that are high glycemic mean food that are quickly converted into sugar, causing your blood sugar to rise to unhealthy levels.

The trick here is to eat lower glycemic foods, like vegetable and fruits, and to slowly remove high glycemic items from your personal menu. Or, combine them at first instead of exclusively concentrating on the "bad carbo."

The good carbohydrates, which are low on the glycemic index, are: asparagus, beans, broccoli, berries (strawberry, blueberry, cranberry), cabbages, cantaloupes, citrus fruits, honey dew melons, kiwis, peaches, pears, guavas, spinach, and most non-starchy veggies like *pechay* and *saluyot*.

The bad carbohydrates, which are high on the glycemic index, are: bananas, bread and other baked products, carrots, cereals (processed with sugar), corn, fruit juices (eat the whole fruit), mangoes, pancakes, papayas, pasta, potatoes, rice, sugar and waffles.

Complex versus refined

Of course, there is a difference between the two. While complex carbo like potatoes, rice (especially wild mountain rice) and corn may be considered a no-no by the strictly health-conscious, they are still better than the refined variety like bread, cakes, sweets, etc. Ultimately, the choice is still yours to make.

A sample menu would be like this:

Breakfast:

Egg white omelet with vegetables or a regular omelet (once a week only)

1 serving of grilled salmon, or any fish like bass, tuna, marlin

1 pc of multigrain toast or ½ cup of wild rice (if you insist!)

Slow-cook oatmeal (not instant) with fresh apples, cinnamon or berries

Herb tea

Low-fat yogurt with fresh fruit—melon, peaches, grapefruit, pears

Lunch:

Grilled tuna/marlin/salmon/*lapu-lapu*/*labahita*, fresh salad greens

Lentil or bean soup

Grilled chicken/turkey breast and salad

Dinner:

White chicken/turkey meat sautéed in olive oil and almonds/cashews

Grilled tuna or any deep-sea fish

Snacks:

Half-cup fresh, unsalted nuts

Apple, orange, pear, melon

Black and green olives

Raisins/prunes/dates (fresh if possible)

Confused?

With so many diet plans to follow, it is easy to be confused about the right plan to have. The old maxim still holds true—follow what feels right for you. Your body will not lie to you. As

KNOW/ p.C3

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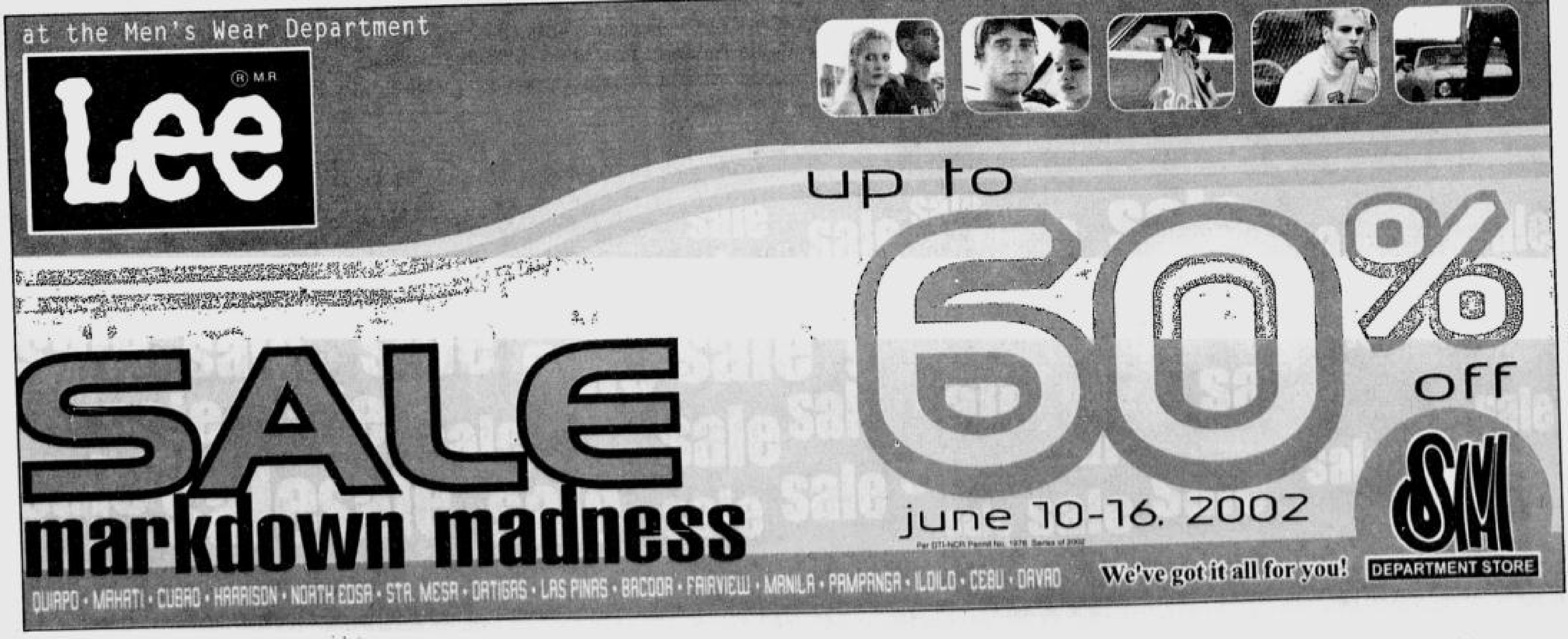

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